Hafa Adai!

Budget plan proposes suspension of statutory earmarks. PAGE 5
Evelyn allowed to accompany Mayor Atalig in RP trip. PAGE 8

75¢

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXIX, Issue No. 72

www.saipantribune.com | FRIDAY APRIL 12, 2019 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

Poker arcade robbed at knifepoint

This frame grab from a surveillance camera shows the female suspect who robbed the Royal Poker gaming arcade in Olea at knifepoint yesterday.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
Kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety is on the lookout for a woman who robbed a poker arcade at knifepoint yesterday.

According to Department of Public Safety statement, the woman robbed the Royal Poker gaming arcade in Oleai.

The woman was described as of Filipino descent, between 4'11' and 5'2" tall, weighing about 120 to 160 lbs, and had short black hair.

The woman was last seen wearing an adjustable white baseball cap with red and blue-colored text on the front, a blueish purple bandana around her neck, a pair of

See POKER on Page 4

OPA: House rule change unconstitutional

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The rule allowing House members to draw an allowance from their office allotments is unconstitutional, according to an opinion yesterday by the Office of the Public Auditor.

Public Auditor Michael Pai gave this opinion in response to eight questions raised by the House minority members bloc last Wednesday, who had sought OPA's guidance in the matter.

Minority leader Rep. Edwin Propst (Ind-Saipan), along with Reps. Christina Sablan (Ind-Saipan), Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), Sheila

See OPA on Page 4

Beetle outbreak on Rota is contained

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Seven months after the onslaught of Typhoon Mangkhut and Super Typhoon Yutu, the Department of Lands and Natural Resource has declared that it has already contained the outbreak of coconut rhinoceros beetles on Rota.

Both Mangkhut and Yutu left the island of Rota vulnerable because many of the rhinoceros beetle traps had been blown away or destroyed. But, fortunately, according to DLNR Secretary Toni Benavente, the department was able to contain the outbreak and has installed more traps on Rota.

See BEETLE on Page 4

Guam selected as Virgin Orbit's launch site

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—Guam has been selected as a launch site for Virgin Orbit's LauncherOne Service. A first launch from the island could occur in as little as a year's time.

"This is a rare opportunity for our island to be front and center of a groundbreaking space industry," said Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero. "Guam has always been a rare gem known for great weather, a beautiful landscape and warm people, and now we can add space transportation to that list."

Leon Guerrero and Lt.

See GUAM on Page 4

INSIDE

LOCAL
Sixteen individuals take their citizenship oaths during a naturalization ceremony yesterday.
PAGE 6

SCIENCE & TECH
Humanity got its first glimpse of the cosmic place of no return: a black hole.
PAGE 23

LIFE & STYLE
Surviving the first seven seasons of "Game of Thrones" can really change a person.
PAGE 24

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

LibDay royal court application now open

Young ladies of the CNMI are being encouraged to be a part of the 2019 CNMI Liberation Day Royal Court, one of the signature events of the annual Liberation Festivities.

"We have exciting activities lined up for our Liberation Festivities in July. Being a part of the Royal Court will truly give each young lady an opportunity to be bold and to play an active role within our great community through events and fundraising," said Royal Court Committee chair Bridget Maratita.

Applications are now available at the Saipan Mayor's Office in San Jose. You can also email nmiliberation@gmail.com for more information.

Applications are due on Monday, April 22, 2019 and can be turned into the Saipan Mayor's Office or the email mentioned above.

Community volunteerism will be the guiding principle in organizing the 2019 CNMI Liberation Day Royal Court and other main activities.

Applicants must be young females from the ages of 14 to 22 years old with good academic standing and moral ethical character. Applicants are encouraged to join and boost their portfolio as an active community volunteer.

Each candidate will have the ability to sell Liberation Day raffle tickets to raise funds and host other various approved fundraisers. ***(PR)***

Costa
Terrace Restaurant
ARC
AQUA RESORT CLUB
Saipan
Enjoy our delicious Sushi Bar at Costa's Seafood Night Buffet!
Available Every Tuesday & Friday Night
Call (670) 322-1234 for Reservations & More Information

Koblerville Youth Center expansion breaks ground

KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

Government sector representatives and Koblerville youth break ground on the Koblerville Youth Center expansion project.

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
Kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The community project to expand the Koblerville Youth Center broke ground on Wednesday and, in about 330 days, it will be bigger and more spacious.

Many government representatives came out Wednesday to participate and support the ground breaking of the newest Community Development Block Grant project.

The project was made possible through the Northern Marianas Housing Corp., which administers CDBG project grants in the CNMI.

NMHC receives over $1 million each year from the U.S. Housing and Urban Development for CDBG projects in the CNMI.

According to NMHC office manager Jacob Muña, the project would cost about $435,000 to complete and is scheduled to be done within 330 days.

"The Office of Grants and Management applied for the funding for CDBG," he said.

The existing Koblerville Youth Center was also funded with CDBG funds back in 2005.

Muña said the end user would be the Youth Affairs Office under the Governor's Office for dual purposes: as a youth center and as a shelter during natural disasters like typhoons.

"It's to accommodate more of the community members. I believe this facility is being used on certain days for after-school programs. The expansion would also assist in the mass shelter for typhoon-related disasters but it's mainly accommodating the after-school programs and any event that the community may have," he said.

According to the Koblerville Youth Learning Center expansion and enhancement project proposal, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres collaborated with the Office of Youth Affairs to expand some of their centers to serve as a refuge during typhoons and allow the center to offer more programs for the vast numbers of youth the Office of Youth Affairs hopes to accommodate.

The next CDBG project on the pipeline will be the Kagman Community Center. NMHC is currently in the works of finalizing the details.

ARMATECH
PABX Telephone System Services and Maintenance
Tel: (670) 234-8895/97 • Fax: (670) 234-8894
Mobile: (670) 287-5525 / (670) 783-8895

TRIPLE J SAYS YES!
EASY FINANCING? YES!
EASY TRADE-IN? YES!
FAST & FRIENDLY? YES!
2018 MODEL YEAR CLEARANCE
MAZDA 3i SPORT
• Fuel-efficient 4-cyl. SkyActiv Engine
• Automatic Transmission
• Back-up Camera
• Keyless Entry w/ Push-button Start
• MazdaConnect Infotainment System
• Loads of Safety features.
UP TO 37 MPG
Mazda Connect Infotainment System
Commander Control Knob
STARTING AT $17,995 OR AS LOW AS $128 PER PAYCHECK
triplejsaipan.com
Customers First TRIPLE J
TRIPLE J MAZDA
Beach Road, Chalan LauLau OPEN Open: Mon-Fri: 8am to 6pm • Sat: 8am to 5pm
Tel: 234-7133/234-3051 autosales@triplejsaipan.com WWW.TRIPLEJSAIPAN.COM
mazda
On approved credit. Some conditions apply. Doc fees and registration not included. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Vehicle may not be exactly as shown. See dealer for more details. Maximum credit card payment toward vehicle purchase is $2500. While current supplies last. 2018 Mazda3i Sport total price is $17,995. Financed at 5.9% APR for 60 monthly payments of $277.65 or $128 per paycheck based on 20% down-payment and 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred price is $16,659.00.

Easter Egg Hunt
McDonald's Middle Road
FREE GIVEAWAYS, PRIZES, EASTER BUNNY! REGISTRATION LIMITED TO THE FIRST 200 KIDS
·Kids 3-5 yrs old
·Free registration at any McDonald's!
·Special prizes for Easter Egg Hunt Winners
·Prize for the "Most Creative Easter Basket"
·Family fun for everyone!
Saturday, April 20
8:30 am - 10:30 am
9:00am - Egg Hunt Begins
10:00am - Most Creative Easter Basket Judging
Registration REQUIRED for Egg Hunt participants. Visit any McDonald's of Saipan location or the McDonald's Main Office for a Registration Form. Call (670) 235-8761 or e-mail admin@jcamcd.com for more info.
SUBMIT YOUR REGISTRATION FORM AT ANY MCDONALD'S OF SAIPAN RESTAURANT OR MCDONALD'S OFFICE BY APRIL 18, 2019

CNMI resident inducted to WSU Circle of Scholars

In this file photo, Benellen Camacho, center, poses with her father, Vicente Camacho, and members of the CNMI Board of Education, soon after graduating from Kagman High School in 2016.
ERWIN ENCINARES

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A former CNMI resident was inducted into the Circle of Honors at the Washington State University.

Benellen Camacho was inducted into the university's 2nd Annual Circle of Scholars last April 11, 2019.

Camacho was also the 2016 Kagman High School valedictorian and is currently studying psychology and human development at WSU. Camacho, according to her sister, Kianna C. Manglona, is expected to graduate in 2020.

Camacho also spent a year at the Northern Marianas College before heading to the state university.

"It feels amazing…to be recognized by such accomplished people and amazing to be part of something as commendable as this. I always felt like I worked hard but this tells me that I really did," Camacho said.

She plans to look into pursuing her studies further once she finishes her undergraduate degree.

"The campus is actually opening up a master's program in psychology the fall after I graduate so that's something I'm interested in," Camacho said. "Mental health is highly stigmatized back home in the CNMI and I want to create a way for people to receive proper treatment without feeling ashamed about it."

"I am proud of a lot of things and I am proud of a lot of people in this world, but nothing makes me prouder than to see my baby sister making her dream a reality," Manglona said in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

Manglona is currently with the Office of the Governor on Capital Hill.

"I truly believe she'll be back home, helping our people as best she can. Until then, I'd like for her to know that her community is just as proud of her and every student who leaves home to further their education in hopes of coming back to the CNMI," Manglona added.

GUAM

From Page 1

Gov. Joshua Tenorio, along with Virgin Orbit, Sir Richard Branson's small satellite launch company, made the announcement yesterday.

Tenorio met with Richard DalBello, vice president of Business Development and Government Affairs of Virgin Galactic; and Mandy Vaughn, president of VOX Space LLC, sister company of Virgin Orbit, last month to discuss the possibilities of using Guam as a hub for launching small satellites.

"We are keen to partner with Virgin Orbit to generate a new space industry in Guam and advance our local economy, as well as spur new STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) education opportunities for our youth to take us into the future," said Tenorio.

Guam will become the second site to host a flight of Virgin Orbit's LauncherOne service. The fits one is at the Long Beach Airport.

According to a statement the Guam Office of the Governor issued yesterday, Guam, with its remote location and close proximity to the equator, is an excellent base of operations to operate Virgin Orbit's 747-launched rocket-seen to boost the rapidly expanding small satellite market.

The new location enables LauncherOne to deliver 450 kg to a 500 km equatorial orbit.

Virgin Orbit

The addition of Guam to that list enhances the flexibility of Virgin Orbit's launch operations, adding a low-latitude site with clear launch trajectories in almost all directions, giving Virgin Orbit's customers unparalleled control over where and when their small spacecraft are deployed.

Officials at U.S. Pacific Air Forces have issued a letter of support for Andersen Air Force Base to host launches and other exercises with LauncherOne and its dedicated carrier aircraft—a critical step en route to a first launch from the island.

The A.B. Won Pat International Airport has begun the process of seeking its launch site operator's license from the Federal Aviation Authority's Office of Commercial Space Transportation, in order to serve as a future launch site for Virgin Orbit.

"Launching from Guam gives us easy access to every orbital inclination our customers need. With our air-launched system, we will fly out as any other airplane, move out to sea and release our rocket. Our minimal footprint coupled with Guam's natural launch location results in a great match. With the continued support from Gov. Leon Guerrero and our partners in the DOD, we are well on our way toward providing new launch opportunities for small satellites that have waited too long for their ride to space, and we're thankful to the local government in Guam for their enthusiasm and support," said Virgin Orbit chief executive officer Dan Hart.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

BEETLE

From Page 1

After Mangkhut and Yutu passed, DLNR staff went to check on the rhino beetle trap perimeter at the Tweksberry Farm—where the outbreak was first reported—and many of the traps were gone, Benavente said.

DLNR studied the area and nearby areas and found one spot where rhino beetle relocated to and established a nesting and breeding ground.

"Some [traps] were destroyed, but they were put back in place and there were also more traps placed in those areas past the perimeter. Somehow, they (rhino beetle) flew past the perimeter and they landed in the neighboring area. They did find a breeding ground there. Luckily, they [DLNR staff] found it and secured it and collected all the larvae and all that.

"We're still monitoring [and] we're putting a lot of traps there," he said.

Since the re-installation of traps, Benavente said DNLR is back to its previous cycle where they catch one or two beetles a month.

"It's very minimal but we still need to work harder and make sure we eradicate them permanently. It's a task [that] we still need to continue. Hopefully, we will have funding and we will continue to ask for funding," Benavente added.

As far as Saipan and Tinian, despite the entry of cargo ships and planes that came in during the Super Typhoon Yutu recovery period, DLNR quarantine staff has remained vigilant in ensuring no invasive species enter the islands.

"We have a very good supporting staff at Quarantine, both at the seaport and the airport, and we try to make sure that invasive species do not come into our islands.

"In terms of the containers, we were really monitoring shipments, be it foreign or U.S., and we made sure to do inspections.

"When we would open them up and we know there's insects or bugs, we close them immediately, do a fumigation process to kill all the insects, and from there on, we can clear whatever is in there," Benavente explained.

Benavente wants to ensure the community that DLNR continues to protect the CNMI from invasive species.

POKER

From Page 1

black long pants, and a pair of flip-flops.

The suspect was seen via surveillance camera entering the arcade and leaving after robbing the cashier of about $650.

According to DPS spokesperson Adrian Pangelinan, CNMI DPS Central received a 911 call at about 6:57am yesterday about a robbery incident that took place between 6:30am and 6:45am.

The caller stated that a woman, who is a familiar face in the area, walked into Royal Poker arcade and held the cashier at knifepoint before fleeing.

The poker arcade's security guard clocked out of his shift at about 6am or 6:30am, leaving minutes before the incident.

The suspect allegedly walked into the establishment between 6:30am and 6:45am and supposedly noticed there were no individuals inside the establishment before proceeding with the robbery.

The suspect called the cashier for assistance before forcing her way into the cashier's area and holding the cashier at knifepoint.

A short struggle occurred before the suspect was able to open the cash register and grab a handful of cash valued at about $650.

The suspect then fled the establishment, going south toward Oleai.

As of 4:50pm yesterday, DPS was still on the lookout for the female suspect.

DPS would like to remind the public that safety is of great concern. In the event that safety is compromised, do not resist. DPS encourages observance. Try to look for any important details that could help police identify the suspect like tattoos, a noticeable slang or accent, and if possible, the direction the suspect flees. Once safe, call 911 immediately. If for any reason danger is still present at the scene, try to leave the scene and then call 911.

OPA

From Page 1

Babauta (Ind-Saipan), Richard Lizama (Ind-Saipan), and Donald Manglona (Ind-Rota) asked OPA last February to ask its opinion on House Rule XIII Section 10 (a) on allowances.

Section 10(a) states that "a member of the House may use a portion of the funds under the member's individual office account as an allowance of $2,500 but not more than $5,000 per month to defray the costs of food, lodging, and other incidental expenses related to community events and activities, and other expenses incurred by reason of attending legislative business in any Senatorial District and outside the Commonwealth."

The House, with the support of the minority, had already adopted its rules during a session last month.

Sablan said the minority would release a joint statement once they finish reviewing Pai's answers.

"This opinion was provided based on a request for guidance by the minority members. We received the opinion [Thursday] morning. We are still reviewing OPA's analysis and would be happy to provide a statement once that review is complete.

"We will also be providing copies for all the members of the House as well. We have not yet received the opinion we requested from the Attorney [General's Office], but we understand that opinion is forthcoming," she added.

Pai said the OPA had addressed a similar issue in 2003 on whether legislators' allowances could be provided through legislative rule change instead of by legislation. "Though the specifics in 2003 and present rule changes differ, the mechanics of their creation suffer the same constitutional flaws."

"Article II, Section 10 of the CNMI Constitution discusses the Legislature's compensation, and additionally permits 'reasonable allowances for expenses provided by law.' The specifics [are] that allowances must be reasonable and they must be created by law.

"By law," Pai said, "means the ordinary legislative process governed by Article II, Sections 5 and 7 of the Constitution requiring a majority of each legislative body and action or non-action by the Executive [Branch]."

Creating an allowance through legislative rule instead of by law violates the principle of the separation of powers, Pai said, and bypasses the governor's veto power and evading review by the Judiciary.

Pai said the rule change violates the spirit of the CNMI Constitution. "Even if lawful, [it] would create ideal conditions for poor accountability of public funds. Assuming the motivation for the rule change was to simplify access to funds for legislative expenses, OPA has several suggestions that might streamline access, while maintaining at least some level of accounting."

He said that OPA recognizes the requirement of having each House member keep records of all the expenses and transactions made using the allowance—to maintain accountability and transparency.

Budget plan is proposing suspension of earmarks

In the proposed budget package that Gov. Ralph DLG Torres submitted to the Legislature, he proposes to suspend the earmarks provided in four public laws.

The proposal is seen to ease the CNMI government's financial crunch after the islands were hit by two consecutive destructive storms in a span of just almost two months last year.

Typhoon Mangkhut barreled through Rota in September while Super Typhoon Yutu almost leveled the islands of Saipan and Tinian the following month.

The statutory mandates that Torres wants suspended for now are outlined in

■ Public Law 13-38, an act to restrict cigarette smoking;

■ Public Law 14-54, nonresident worker fund fees allocated to the Northern Marianas College and Public School System;

■ Public Law 15-5, the 10 percent Gaming Jackpot Tax allocated to PSS; and

■ Public Law 18-64, an act to gradually increase the tax on cigarettes.

The Finance Department has identified $233.22 million in gross income the administration expects to collect next fiscal year. The net amount of resources available for appropriation—gross revenue minus statutory earmark— is $147,135,214.

The $233.22 million reflects a 9.7-percent decrease from last fiscal year's record-high budget of $258,139,107—a difference of $24,916,580.

The local revenue and resources available for appropriation went down by 14.3 percent—from $171,589,677 in fiscal year 2019 to $147,135,214 in fiscal year 2020—or $24,454,463.

In the letter to legislative leaders, Torres said Mangkhut and Yutu created an enormous impact to the CNMI economy in just 45 days.

"The CNMI is forced to revert to the hardships of austerity as one of a number of proactive cost-containment measures to stabilize the government's financial condition," he said.

The additional burden of paying for the non-federal cost share in the millions for typhoon response and recovery "will result in a curtailment of critical public services, forcing our government to readjust our budget [and] possibly affecting services and employment," said Torres. ***(Jon Perez)***

Be Social
with FREE Social Media
Enjoy social media without using up your data.
$2.50 per day
. UNLIMITED Social Media
. Text Plan 2GB to 3282 to activate
. 2GB 4G LTE Data
store.ite.net ite_cnmi ite.cnmi
*Terms & conditions apply. The following social media apps will not consume data (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Whatsapp, and Viber). See store for details
EXPLORE YOUR WORLD
IT&E

16 take oath as new US citizens

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Brendan Abner F. Venus, 54, became blind right after Super Typhoon Soudelor devastated the CNMI in 2015 because of diabetes and kidney failure. Yet he still managed to keep his focus on his goal of becoming a U.S. citizen.

Yesterday, Venus, who was wearing dark glasses and sat on a wheelchair, joined 15 others in taking his citizenship oath during a naturalization ceremony presided over by U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy.

"I feel really good. It took me 43 years to become a U.S. citizen," Venus said, who has four children born on the island. It was his daughter who petitioned him and his wife, Ma. Cristy A. Venus, to become U.S. citizens.

Cristy Venus also took her oath yesterday.

Venus undergoes dialysis treatment thrice a week.

His parents first brought him to Saipan in 1977 when he was only 12 years old. He studied at the Garapan Elementary School and graduated high school at Mt. Carmel School in 1983. Venus then pursued college in the Philippines.

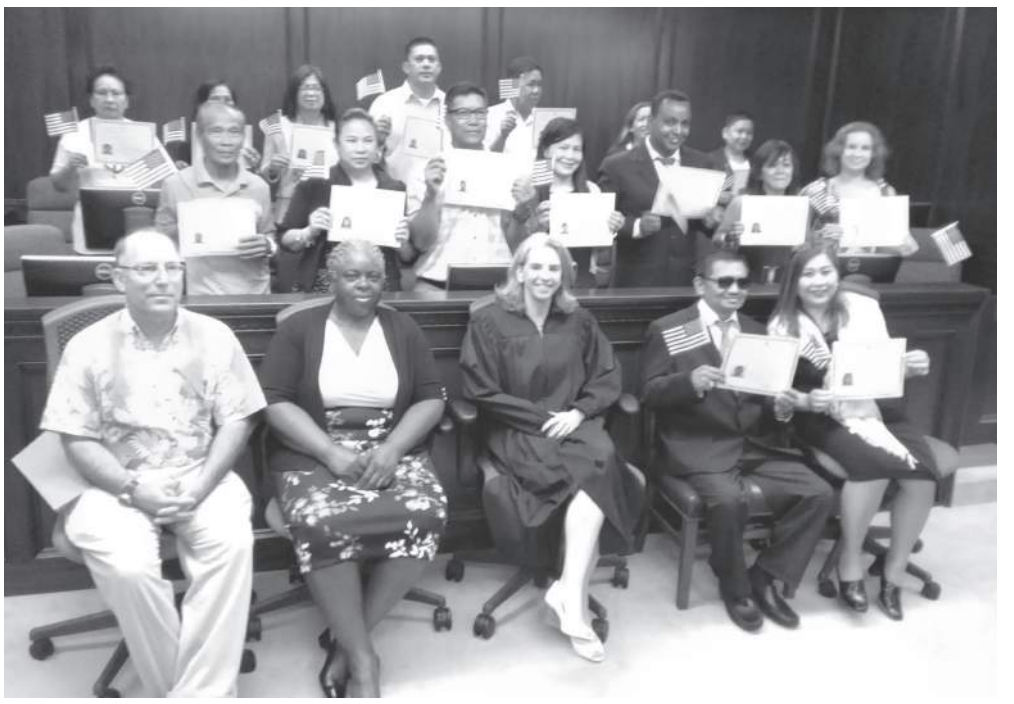
In 1986, Venus was among those given permanent residency in the CNMI.

"When we lost our status in 2009, I applied for that EAD (Employee Authorization Document)," he said.

Venus is thankful to his parents and Duty Free Shoppers president Marian Aldan-Pierce, whom he credits with helping him and his wife get their green cards.

Venus' parents, Victor and Aida Venus, both 82, became U.S. citizens in 1990.

Before going blind, Venus was known as a basketball referee and an organizer of several basketball tournaments on the island.



U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather L. Kennedy, seated center in front, Immigration Services Officer Shelia Kelty, seated second from left, front, and American Red Cross-NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh, seated extreme left, front, join the 16 new U.S. citizens for a group photo during the naturalization ceremony yesterday. FERDIE DE LA TORRE

For Nina G. Dubovik, 43, a Russian, she is so proud to now be consider part of the American family.

"I want to contribute to make this country greater," said Dubovik, who, together with Russian husband, Alex, owns the travel agency, Belka Tours.

Dubovik first came to the island in 2002 as a tourist. Belka Tours is now almost 20 years old.

Dubovik used to hold an investor visa, then got a green card. Her husband Alex, who has been on the island for 25 years, is still waiting for his papers to become a citizen.

The Dubovik couple's two children—3 and 14 years old—were born here.

Another new citizen is Ashebir T. Chekol, 44, a native of Ethiopia, a country in the northeastern part of Africa. He is a physician at the Commonwealth Health Center.

Chekol lived in Maryland for 10 years. He came to the island four months ago to join CHC.

He first obtained his green card 10 years ago, through the U.S. Diversity Visa Lottery Program. Ethiopian citizens are among those eligible to participate in the program.

Magistrate Judge Heather Kennedy, who presided over the ceremony, encouraged the new citizens to register and vote in the CNMI. That would make them potential federal jurors.

Kennedy said that serving as a juror is one of the most important process in the U.S. Judiciary.

American Red Cross-NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh, who served as the guest speaker at the ceremony, encouraged the new citizens to help civic non-governmental organizations like the American Red Cross, Karidat Social Services, Salvation Army, Lion's Club, Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance, Chamber of Commerce, sports teams, health associations, and others that are all trying to improve the Commonwealth.

"Spend time making our island and ultimately our nation better through community projects and volunteer service," he said.

Most of the newest citizens are from the Philippines. The rest are from China, Ethiopia, and Russia.

Aside from the Venus couple, Chekol, and Dubovik, the other new citizens are Benjamin F. Donato and Zosima C. Donato, Raul D. Blanca, Jeanette S. Cabrera, Jianqin Z. Che, Amalia B. Harris, Noemi R. Manglona, Anna-Lyn P. Palacios, Ralph T. Surla, Leopoldo U. Valdez, Emily V. Villagomez, and Shirley L. Villanueva.

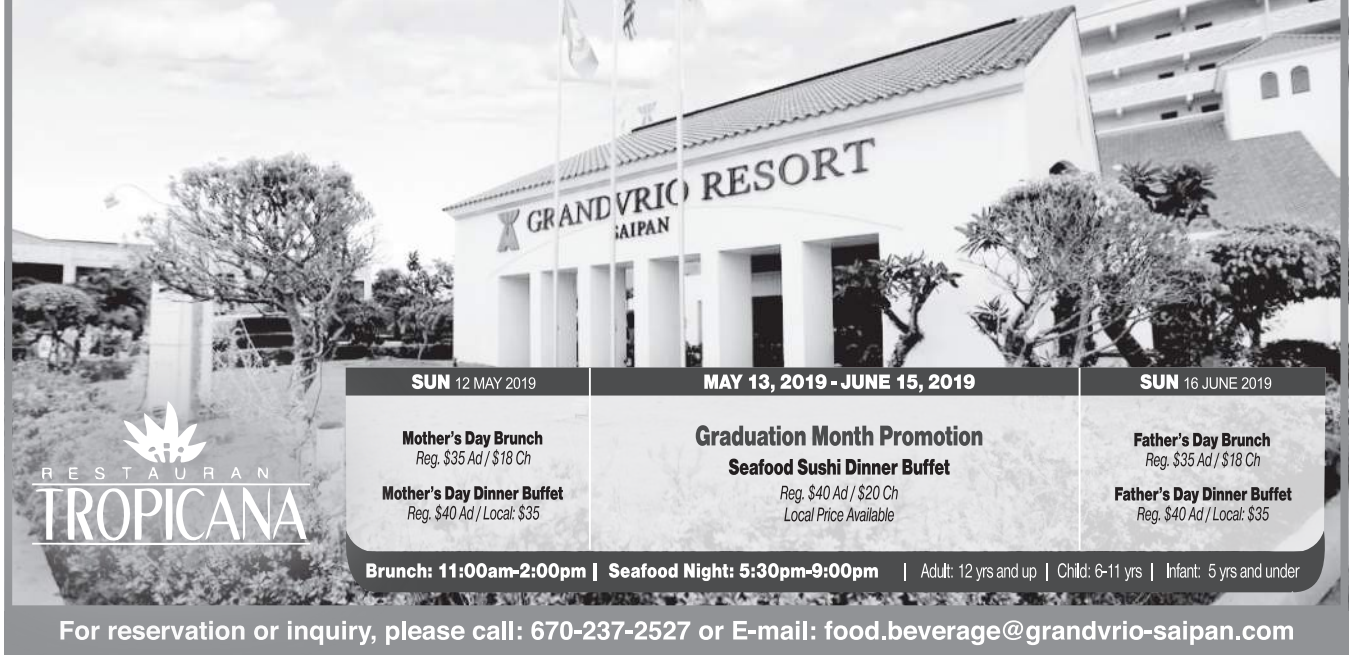
GUANGDONG HARDWARE
Never satisfied until you are
Lowest Price in Saipan!!!
Furniture, Bedding Articles and LED!
Financing is available now!
NEW ARRIVAL
LAVATORY FAUCET, MIRROR, GARDEN TOOLS AND MANY MORE!
ABS, CPVC, PVC, CONDUIT PIPES & FITTINGS ARE ALL MADE IN USA
ELECTRICAL TOOLS, WATER HEATER, & WINDOWS
NEW ARRIVAL Furniture

Make a Difference for Your House!

LED LIGHTS
• Less money, 50% energy saving!
• More stable, bright, and fashionable!
• More longer and environmental protection!
Your Smart Choice!
G60 Rebar is Available Now!
CHEAPEST DEALER OF MAJOR CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL ON ISLAND!
P.O. BOX 501640, SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 288-2288/2289/6688
FAX: 288-4488
E-mail:guangdong_hardware@163.com
BUSINESS HOURS:
Monday to Saturday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
DISCOVER MasterCard VISA

SAFETY REQUIRES TEAMWORK
BE PART OF OUR TEAM!
LP GAS WUSHIN
Since1983 Committed to Safety Excellence
For your LPGas needs, please call 322-7415 or 322-8733
Open from 8:00am – 5:00pm Monday to Friday | 8:00am – 2:00pm Saturday

Serving our islands for over 25 years!
WORLD TOUR & TRAVEL
World Tour & Travel
Your Professional Travel Agency
Agent for most airlines of United, Delta, Asiana, Korean, PAL
Help for mileage booking and online reservations.
WORLD WIDE INSURANCE
World Wide Insurance
Meets your Insurance Needs for Auto, Worker's Comp. Public Liability & Fire.
CHINESE VISA
World Express Service
Specializes in Chinese Visa, Public Notary Service
Consulate Certifying service in Chinese L.A. Consulate
Tel.: 233-3600/3700/3605 • Fax: 233-3900
2nd Floor, M2M Bldg., Garapan, between Bank of Guam and Bank of Saipan

GRANDVRIO RESORT SAIPAN
Happy Mother's and Father's Day
PROMOTIONS

RESTAURAN TROPICANA
SUN 12 MAY 2019
Mother's Day Brunch
Reg. $35 Ad / $18 Ch
Mother's Day Dinner Buffet
Reg. $40 Ad / Local: $35
MAY 13, 2019 - JUNE 15, 2019
Graduation Month Promotion
Seafood Sushi Dinner Buffet
Reg. $40 Ad / $20 Ch
Local Price Available
SUN 16 JUNE 2019
Father's Day Brunch
Reg. $35 Ad / $18 Ch
Father's Day Dinner Buffet
Reg. $40 Ad / Local: $35
Brunch: 11:00am-2:00pm | Seafood Night: 5:30pm-9:00pm | Adult: 12 yrs and up | Child: 6-11 yrs | Infant: 5 yrs and under
For reservation or inquiry, please call: 670-237-2527 or E-mail: food.beverage@grandvrio-saipan.com

FLAME TREE FESTIVAL DONOR CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In this photo is Rob Harrell, IT&E executive director, Customer of Operations, with Flame Tree organizers. "We are excited to join this year's Flame Tree Festival. Our partnership with the CNMI Humanities Council and the Marianas Visitors Authority is grounded in our dedication to our island's traditions and helping people share moments that matter," said Harrell.

Road closure in Chalan Kanoa

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that there is an ongoing construction and road closure on Route 309 of Chalan Kanoa fronting Marg's Kitchen.

The purpose of the construction and road closure is to allow CUC's contractor, RNV Construction, to perform necessary repairs on a damaged 10-inch sewer line. The road is expected to re-open on Friday, April 19, 2019.

Due to the closure of Route 309 and for the safety of the community, pedestrians, motorists and large vehicles are advised to proceed with caution and take alternative routes when traveling through the area.

CUC continues to work diligently to minimize any inconvenience to its customers. For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282) or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/). ***(PR)***

I ❤ MASSAGE
Special Local Promotion
$18.00 Body Massage 60 minutes
$25.00 Body & Feet Massage 90 Minutes
Business Hours:
10:00AM-1:00AM • Monday-Sunday
VISIT 10 TIMES - GET 1 FREE
For more information, please
Call 234-9229 and ask for Wang
Located in Beach Road, Susupe, 1st Floor, Joeten Commercial Bldg. next to Zoom Chicken

NISSAN
Innovation that excites
TRUCK MONTH
2019 FRONTIER
Drive a NISSAN FIRST - then decide!
Starting at
$28,995
or $165*
per paycheck
FREE [$1000 VALUE]
PROFESSIONAL TINT
LASER CUT FLOORMATS
FULL TANK OF GAS
ZIEBART UNDERCOAT
1 YEAR (4) GOLD SERVICE
JOETEN 70th ANNIVERSARY MEGA GIVEAWAY
WIN! 2020 Kia Soul
SINCE 1949
Visit us at www.joetenmotors.com
SHOWROOM HOURS: MON. – FRI. 8 AM - 6 PM • SAT. 8 AM - 12 NOON • TEL. (670) 234-5562
Vehicle may not be exactly as shown • Some conditions apply • See dealer for details • While Supplies last
*FRONTIER KING CAB 4X2, 20% Down, 3.5% APR, on approved credit based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred $25,750.80
Joeten Motors
POWERED BY YOU

Evelyn allowed to accompany Mayor Atalig in PH trip

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has allowed Evelyn Atalig to accompany Rota Mayor Efraim M. Atalig to Manila, Philippines for his heart surgery.

Manglona's order on Wednesday allows Evelyn Atalig to travel to Guam on April 18 and to the Philippines on April 19.

While in the Philippines, Evelyn Atalig is required to maintain email or telephone contact (personally or through counsel) with the U.S. Probation Pretrial Services Office on Saipan.

Manglona said Evelyn Atalig must return to the CNMI as soon as treatment for Efraim M. Atalig is completed and he is cleared to travel.

These are the same conditions the judge imposed on Efraim M. Atalig in a separate order.

Atalig

The U.S. government did not oppose the Ataligs' requests.

Efraim M. Atalig, through counsel David Banes, told the court that he will have heart surgery or a stent placed in his heart at the Asian Hospital and Medical Center.

The Ataligs have been charged jointly with wire fraud, theft concerning programs receiving federal funds, and conspiracy to commit wire fraud and federal funds theft. Each of them also faces a separate charge of false statement.

The Ataligs allegedly arranged CNMI government-funded trips to California, Palau, Guam, and Saipan under fraudulent pretenses.

The U.S. government alleged that the primary purpose of these trips was not official business but personal travel or partisan political activity, for which the Ataligs fraudulently claimed per diem and travel reimbursement.

The defendants pleaded not guilty to all charges. The trial will start on June 4.

American Red Cross
Northern Mariana Islands
Saipan
Rota
Tinian
American Red Cross
04.13.19
Walk for the Red
When: Saturday, April 13, 2019
Start time: 6:00 a.m.
Location: Guma Sakman-Susupe
Lots of fun for the whole family!
10 K, 5K and 2K courses
A $20 donation receives a t-shirt and giveaways
Free sandwich and refreshments for walkers
• Community Fair • Blood pressure checks • Immunizations • Cooking demonstration • Carnival games
• Face painting • Bounce houses • Fire truck and military vehicle show
For more information, please call the NMI Chapter at 234-3459
Premiere sponsors:
Coca-Cola
FOREMOST
SUBWAY
GlimpsesAdvertising
GlimpsesMedia
Scoops

IP&E
Fueling Excellence
Grow with us!
TRAVELR SHOP MANAGER
We are seeking a dynamic, passionate, and customer-experience driven Manager to lead our Travelr Shop team! The Shop Manager ensures excellent standards of organization, cleanliness, and quality of products are upheld and that a guest-friendly environment is maintained. The ideal candidate should possess excellent communication and organization skills, be self-motivated, have the ability to work flexible hours and to lead and motivate a team. Qualified candidates should have 5 or more years of retail experience with 2 years of team management.
Interested individuals who meet the above requirements should submit their resume no later than, Friday, April 19, 2019. Applications and resumes may be submitted to the attention of IP&E Human Resource Department via:
Office: Corner Puetto St. and Industrial Drive Commercial Port Saipan, MP 96950
Email: HumanResourceTeam@ipehq.com
Mail: PMB 1009 PO Box 10000 Saipan, MP 96950
or
Travelr Shop (Located at the PIC Hotel ground floor)
502370 Beach Road
San Antonio, Saipan MP 96950
IP&E Holdings is an Equal Opportunity Employer
IP&E
Travelr
FOODY'S
Shell Licensee
Shell trademark used under license

Interior funds training for Palau government leaders

Republic of Palau Vice President Raynold B. Oilouch welcomes participants to DOI/OIA-sponsored PITI training for government leaders: Innovation without Additional Resources (February 2019).
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs funds leadership training in the Republic of Palau, through the Graduate School USA.

OIA funded a three-day, high-level training for Palau executive leadership titled "Innovation: Without Additional Resources" last Feb. 19-21, 2019.

Completed by 72 participants as part of the Graduate School USA's Pacific Islands Training Initiative, the session focused on commonly used tools and techniques to improve public-sector performance, and the application of those tools to real-world examples in Palau.

The training placed special emphasis on citizen-centric delivery of public services, and streamlining government processes. The participants included ministers, program directors, and bureau chiefs from across Palau.

"The Department of the Interior is proud of the support that we provide to the U.S. Insular Areas," said U.S. Department of the Interior assistant secretary, Insular and International Affairs, Doug Domenech. "The United States is helping to strengthen and build leadership capacity that ultimately contributes to effective governance and stability in the islands and in their respective regions."

In his welcome to the training participants, Republic of Palau Vice President Raynold B. Oilouch reminded participants of Palau Presidential Proclamation 19-255, which declared 2019 to be the "Year of Innovative Learning and Excellence."

The proclamation encourages Palauans to "open [their] hearts to new experiences, new approaches, and new solutions in [their] lives, families, businesses, culture, and government."

Oilouch thanked the Interior Department and the Graduate School USA for their continued support of Palau.

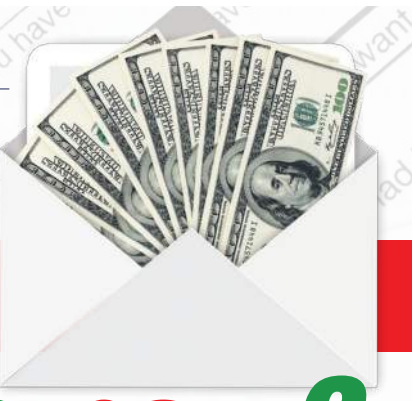
Brian Elms, author of *Peak Performance* and former director of the Denver Peak Academy, provided the training.

Elms specializes in government innovation with more than 15 years of experience providing program management expertise to government agencies, elected officials, trade associations, and nonprofit organizations.

Since its inception in 2012, Peak Academy initiatives have saved the city and county of Denver more than $30 million and have provided training to more than 7,000 public and nonprofit professionals. Elms began working with the Insular Area governments in late 2017 at the Island Government Finance Officers' Association winter conference.

The innovation training provided in Palau is part of a larger Pacific & Virgin Islands Training Initiatives program, a capacity building initiative funded through the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs Technical Assistance Program to build leadership capacity, strengthen financial accountability, and support strong fiscal planning in the U.S. territories and Freely Associated States. More information on the program may be found on the PITI-VITI website. ***(PR)***

EXPRESS FINANCIAL
Your dependable money source



Wondering if your tax rebate or refund will be paid on time this year?

Need your cash now?

Choose any of these 3 convenient options to apply!

#1 Call us direct at 670-235-6032 and our friendly local staff will be happy to take your application over the phone.

#2 Fill out the attached application and fax to 670-235-6040 and we will call you within a few minutes of receiving the fax.

#3 Fill out the attached application, scan and email to cccar6985users@carfinancial.com and a friendly member of our sales team will call you.

EXPRESS FINANCIAL is your local money source for quick cash for all your needs.

Helping you succeed financially is our top priority. In most cases we can get the cash in your hands the same day we receive your application.

Express Financial can lend you up to 70% of your verified tax rebate NOW.
NO CREDIT HISTORY NECESSARY.

As long as you have a veritable source of income with the ability to make the payments Express Financial will lend against your tax returns.

Perhaps it's not a tax refund loan you are looking for; Express Financial has plenty of cash and makes loans for all your financial needs with the fastest services on island. Express Financial can get you the cash you want for your summer fix-up projects or taking that long awaited family vacation. Come in to see us TODAY or give us a call and we can take your application right over the phone. Our job is to help you succeed financially.

QUICK CASH APPLICATION

Primary Applicant
First Name: _____ M.I. ____ Last Name: _____
Employer: _____ Length of Employment: _____ Phone: _____
Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
Best Time & Number for Express Financial to contact you: _____ _____
Best Time To Call Best Number To Call

Secondary Applicant
First Name: _____ M.I. ____ Last Name: _____
Employer: _____ Length of Employment: _____ Phone: _____
Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____
Best Time & Number for Express Financial to contact you: _____ _____
Best Time To Call Best Number To Call
Mailing Address: Street/Box _____ Village _____ Zip Code _____

Chalan Monsignor Guerrero San Jose Village, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: 670-235-6032 | Fax: 670-235-6040

WE ARE MOVING!
In order to better serve you, our customers, we are moving our office.
Effective May 01, 2019 we will be conveniently located at:

Town House Center, Beach Road
Chalan Kanoa Village, Saipan MP 96950

Fewer USERRA violations these days, says ESGR chief

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Compared to 10 years ago, violations of the employment rights of U.S. military reservists and guard members are drastically lower, according to the Employers Support of the Guard and Reserve last Wednesday at the general membership meeting of the Society for Human Resource Management at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

Guam and CNMI ESGR chair Donald Clark reiterated this in a later interview with *Saipan Tribune*, that there are fewer violations of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994, or the USERRA, than before due to efforts exerted to educate employers, military reservists, and Guard members.

There are still some cases of USERRA rights being violated, Clark said, but it isn't what it used to be 10 years ago, when the ESGR would get over 50 complaints annually. That's down to roughly 10 cases annually, according to Clark.

"When we started [10 years ago] there was very little knowledge of this law by the employers and the employees, but once we started to educate them, the employees started realizing [about their employment rights]," he said.

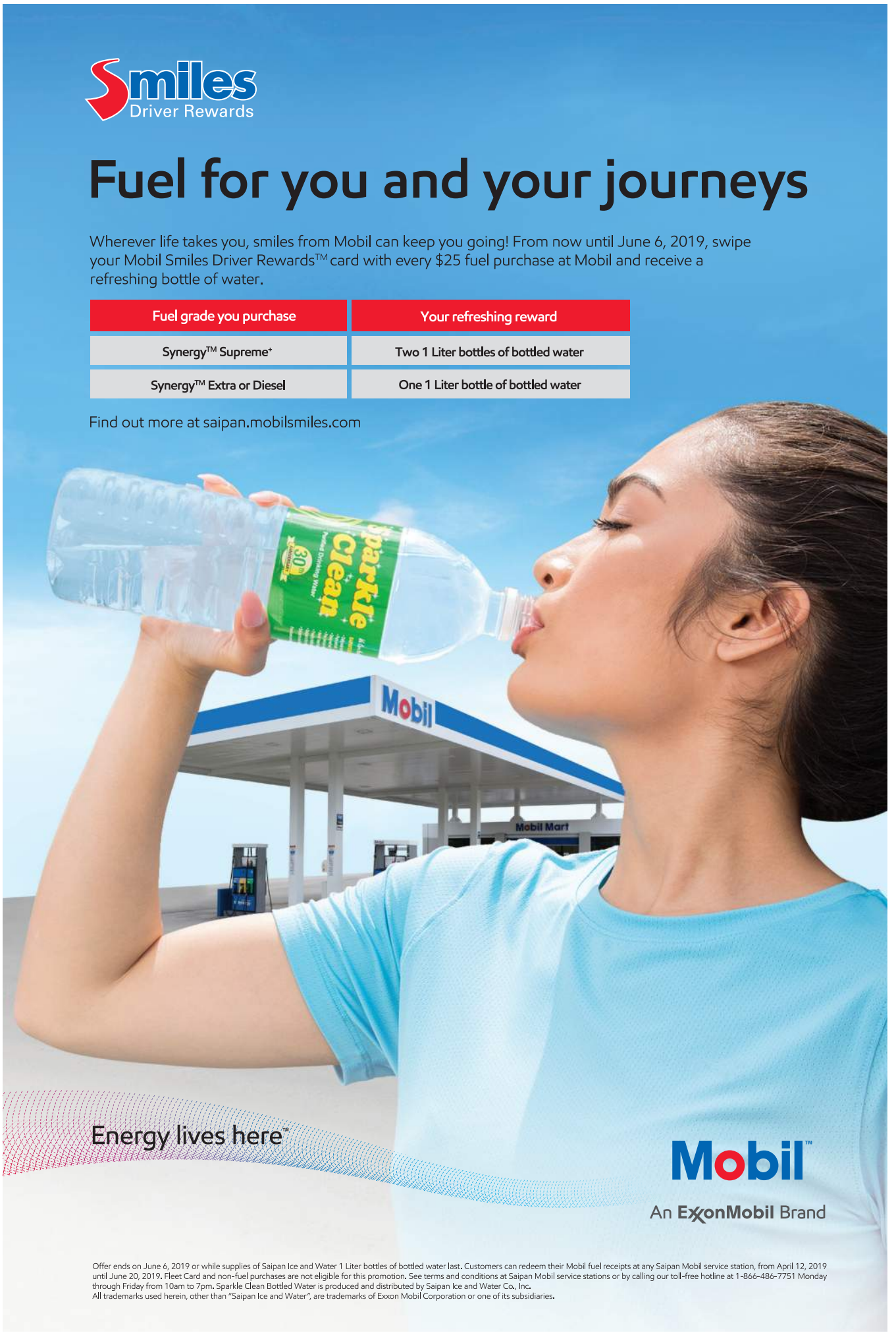
USERRA protects the jobs of active and reserve military personnel in the U.S. when they are called to serve, keeping their civilian jobs for them.

"I believe the reason [for this change] is that employers are more educated and so they are aware of this law and they make sure they are not violating this. Employees are also aware of this law and they are making sure their employers aren't violating the law either," he said.

USERRA prohibits employers from terminating positions held by people who volunteer or are involuntarily called to active duty. Benefits that are usually offered to regular employees will be retained and offered to the reservist or Guard member as if they were never gone from employment.

The law is designed to protect their jobs and to prevent discrimination against individuals who choose to serve in the U.S. military, Clark said.

The law can be retroactive in nature, and those who wish to report a possible violation of their rights may contact the Guam office through www.ESGR.mil/gu or through their office number at (671) 735-0456.


Smiles
Driver Rewards
Fuel for you and your journeys
Wherever life takes you, smiles from Mobil can keep you going! From now until June 6, 2019, swipe your Mobil Smiles Driver Rewards™ card with every $25 fuel purchase at Mobil and receive a refreshing bottle of water.
Fuel grade you purchase
Your refreshing reward
Synergy™ Supreme+
Two 1 Liter bottles of bottled water
Synergy™ Extra or Diesel
One 1 Liter bottle of bottled water
Find out more at saipan.mobilsmiles.com
Sparkle Clean
Mobil
Mobil Mart
Energy lives here™
Mobil™
An ExxonMobil Brand
Offer ends on June 6, 2019 or while supplies of Saipan Ice and Water 1 Liter bottles of bottled water last. Customers can redeem their Mobil fuel receipts at any Saipan Mobil service station, from April 12, 2019 until June 20, 2019. Fleet Card and non-fuel purchases are not eligible for this promotion. See terms and conditions at Saipan Mobil service stations or by calling our toll-free hotline at 1-866-486-7751 Monday through Friday from 10am to 7pm. Sparkle Clean Bottled Water is produced and distributed by Saipan Ice and Water Co., Inc.
All trademarks used herein, other than "Saipan Ice and Water", are trademarks of Exxon Mobil Corporation or one of its subsidiaries.

Palau thanks NMI for public land

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Palau President Tommy E. Remengasau Jr. has conveyed the appreciation of the Palauan community to the government and people of the CNMI after a portion of public land on Saipan was designated for the purpose of building a *bai,* a Palauan community hall.

Remengesau and members of the Palau National Congress (*Olbiil era Kelulau*) met with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres last week at the Palau Capitol Building in Ngerulmud and presented him with Presidential Proclamation 19-259.

Discussions between Palau and the CNMI on the possibility of securing a piece of public property began in 2006, with the planned construction of a *bai* for the use by the Palauan community living in the CNMI for various functions.

Palauans first moved to Saipan when it was the capital of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands government. They established families and later became permanent residents of the island. The Palauan community has grown over the years and had also contributed to the CNMI's economic development.

On May 29 last year, the CNMI Department of Public Lands assigned a 7,000-square meter public property to the Department of Cultural and Community Affairs where the *bai* can be constructed.

Remengesau said the people of Palau welcomes the opportunity of having a fixed place on Saipan that would support the Palauan community in the CNMI. Funds to build the *bai* would either come from a Palau congressional appropriation or fundraising efforts.

Once completed, the *bai* would house the Palau Consulate and serve as a typhoon shelter and gathering place for Palauans living in the CNMI.

Its creation is expected to further strengthen the friendship and cooperation between the people of Palau and the CNMI.

Earth Month kicks off in Guam

YPAO BEACH, Guam—Marine Corps Activity Guam Environmental team partnered with the government of Guam partners on Saturday for the Guam Nature Alliance Earth Month Kick-off at Gov. Joseph Flores Beach Park, at Ypao Beach in Tumon.

The MCAG Environmental team partnered with the Bureau of Statistics and Plans and the Guam Department of Agriculture Forestry and Soil Resources Division with information and displays as well as live plants to educate the community about their conservation as well as the effects of invasive species on native wildlife.

MCAG Environmental and the other Government of Guam agencies spoke about ongoing and future environmental projects, many of which are associated with the relocation of Marines to Guam. Such projects include the forest enhancement project and native plant nursery near Finegayan, where there are increased opportunities to establish partnerships with academic institutions, non-profits and government agencies.

"Guam's remaining limestone forests continue to be degraded by invasive plants and animals," said Adrienne Loerzel, MCAG Forest Enhancement Manager. "The forest enhancement project gives us a unique opportunity to restore this special habitat, and develop tools that other resource managers can use."

Education is essential to the objectives of both federal and local teams to preserve and restore the island's eco-systems. The event served as an opportunity to introduce the community to different environmental programs, encouraging active participation in the process, to better understand and protect Guam's environment. ***(PR)***

U.S. MARINE CORPS/KELLY RODRIGUEZ

Eco Fair-goers participate in a mini-nature walk for education on the native and invasive species at the Guam Nature Alliance Earth Month Kickoff Eco Fair at Ypao Beach on April 6.

Finding interpreter not the job of OPD—defense lawyer

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Public Defender, on behalf of a defendant facing murder charges, is questioning the Superior Court's act requiring the OPD to provide a Tagalog interpreter.

Assistant public defender Heather M. Zona, counsel for Alfonso Parongan, asserted that assigning OPD the task of finding interpreters violates both Commonwealth law and Parongan's constitutional and civil rights.

Zona

Assigning this task to OPD violates the separation of powers doctrine, said Zona in Parongan's motion filed Wednesday for the Superior Court to provide and pay for a Tagalog interpreter.

Parongan's trial will start next month.

Zona said Parongan requires the use of a Tagalog interpreter for court proceedings, including trial, as well as meetings where Parongan is required or expected to attend.

OPD had asked the court to appoint a Tagalog interpreter so that, among other things, Parongan may participate in his own defense and know what is going on in his case.

Instead, the Superior Court instructed OPD to "contact the interpreter."

Zona said that when OPD first asked the Superior Court for its list of court interpreters, a court staff advised that it could not provide the list because the information is "confidential."

And because the court does not wish to provide the list of qualified translators to OPD, the court has placed on OPD the task of identifying and providing interpreters, which is outside the agency's mandate, Zona said.

She said OPD lacks the resources and ability to determine whether particular individuals are qualified interpreters, or to compel such individuals to appear for court dates or meetings.

"Such responsibilities already have been assumed by the Superior Court pursuant to its obligations under Title VI, among other laws," the defense counsel said.

She pointed out that Commonwealth Rules of Practice require the court to provide and pay for an interpreter for Parongan. "Criminal defendants with limited English proficiency have a constitutional right to interpretation," she said.

Zona noted that the court created a list of court interpreters, which was last updated on Jan. 3, 2015.

"Over the past four years, the list has become outdated as individuals have moved off island, passed away, or only will translate for federal cases," she said.

Zona said agencies receiving federal funding are required to take reasonable steps to provide meaningful access to programs, services and information to LEP and Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals.

Zona cited that in 2018, the NMI Judiciary received $906,929 grant from a Bureau of Justice Assistance grant.

She said between 2003 and 2018, the NMI received other grants from BJA in the amount of $9 million, some or all of which reflects grants to the Judiciary.

Zona said that in 2015, the Judiciary received a $54,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, consisting of a $34,000 for the purchase and retrofit of a four-wheel-drive vehicle for the Marshal Service Division and $20,000 to purchase a computer, workstations, and database server for the clerk of court's office.

Parongan is being charged over the killing of his landlord and injuring her husband in Chalan Kanoa in 2017. He faces charges of first-degree murder, attempted second-degree murder, and assault with a dangerous weapon.

Parongan, 56, has been in jail since he was arrested shortly after the killing that occurred in October 2017.

Through his counsel, Parongan has made a plea of not guilty for reason of insanity.

Police said during their interview, Parongan confessed to smoking drugs and being drunk on the day of the incident.

The woman suffered multiple stab wounds, while her husband sustained 12 injuries in different parts of the head and body.

The woman was reportedly trying to collect house rental from Parongan when the two got into argument in the evening of Oct. 29, 2017. He allegedly stabbed the woman and her husband with a kitchen knife.

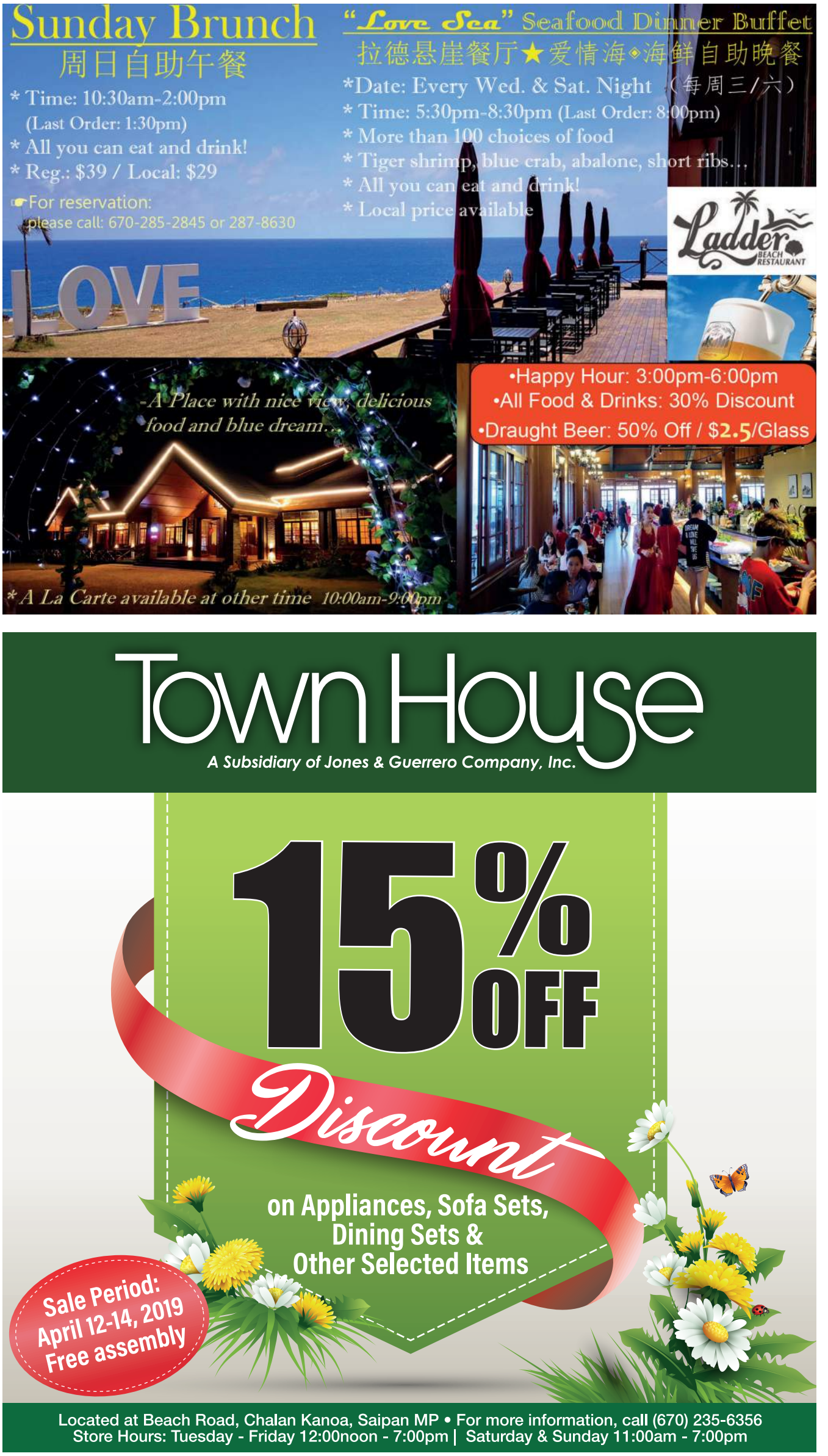
5 small businesses awarded $75M construction contract

Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas awarded a $75-million multiple award construction contract last April 9 to five small businesses for construction, renovation, modernization work and routine repair and maintenance work.

The small companies that were selected are Chugach Consolidated Solutions LLC of Alaska; Clayarch Inc. in Guam; GSI North America Inc. of New Jersey; InfraTech International LLC in Guam; and S.K. Construction Inc. in Guam.

"This MACC award represents the Navy's intent to leverage the expertise and talents of our small business community to meet mission requirements on Guam," said NAVFAC Marianas commanding officer Capt. Daniel Turner. "I commend our acquisition professionals and the team of small business firms for this great achievement."

Chugach Consolidated Solutions LLC was awarded $992,000 to replace air conditioning systems in 59 units as part of Phase II of Apra View housing on Naval Base Guam. All other firms were each awarded a task order for the minimum guarantee of $10,000. ***(USN)***


Sunday Brunch
周日自助午餐
* Time: 10:30am-2:00pm
(Last Order: 1:30pm)
* All you can eat and drink!
* Reg.: $39 / Local: $29
For reservation:
please call: 670-285-2845 or 287-8630
"Love Sea" Seafood Dinner Buffet
拉德悬崖餐厅★爱情海◆海鲜自助晚餐
*Date: Every Wed. & Sat. Night（每周三/六）
* Time: 5:30pm-8:30pm (Last Order: 8:00pm)
* More than 100 choices of food
* Tiger shrimp, blue crab, abalone, short ribs…
* All you can eat and drink!
* Local price available
LOVE
Ladder BEACH RESTAURANT
-A Place with nice view, delicious food and blue dream…
* A La Carte available at other time 10:00am-9:00pm
•Happy Hour: 3:00pm-6:00pm
•All Food & Drinks: 30% Discount
•Draught Beer: 50% Off / $2.5/Glass
Town House
A Subsidiary of Jones & Guerrero Company, Inc.
15% OFF
Discount
on Appliances, Sofa Sets, Dining Sets & Other Selected Items
Sale Period: April 12-14, 2019
Free assembly
Located at Beach Road, Chalan Kanoa, Saipan MP • For more information, call (670) 235-6356
Store Hours: Tuesday - Friday 12:00noon - 7:00pm | Saturday & Sunday 11:00am - 7:00pm

McDonald's donates $1K to Red Cross

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

McDonald's Guam/Saipan donated $1,000 to the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter last Wednesday to support the humanitarian organization's biggest fundraiser, the American Red Cross Walkathon, which takes place this year on April 13, 2019.

This year is the 33rd anniversary of the walkathon.

According to Marcia Ayuyu, McDonald's Guam/Saipan managing director, the local Red Cross chapter holds a special place in her and her family's hearts because the chapter is always there to help those in need.

"When I hear Red Cross, I like to be there. I like to help because these guys are out there helping the people in need in our community. …We just really want to help the Red Cross because, when in time of need, they're always there for the people—typhoon, fire, anything—and we just want to be there for them," she said.

Ayuyu has witnessed firsthand the kind of immediate help that the chapter offers those who are struck by disasters. "I have friends who lost their homes, their belongings, and Red Cross really stepped up and helped them," she said.

The Ayuyus, McDonald's Guam/Saipan owners, have been helping out the chapter's fundraiser for many years

According John Hirsch, American Red Cross-NMI Chapter executive director, McDonald's is one of the chapter's most consistent supporters.

"Whether it's our blue-sky event like our walkathons or gray-sky events like responding to Super Typhoon Yutu, McDonald's has always been there for us in terms of making donations. This is very important to us because, without the kindness of our corporate donors, we just wouldn't be able to do the work that we do. We're really grateful to the Ayuyu family for providing their support," he said.

McDonald's Middle Road staff and representative of the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter pose for a photo after check donation of $1,000 Wednesday. KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

The Red Cross walkathon is held annually to raise funds for the chapter's mission.

"We're trying to raise $70,000. The lion's share of those donations is going to be from our walkers," Hirsch said.

The 33rd Annual American Red Cross-NMI Chapter Walkathon will be this Saturday starting at the Guma Sakman area in Susupe.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

NMPASI closed today

Offices of the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. will be closed today, April 12, 2019, and will resume regular business hours (from 8am to 5pm) on Monday April 15, 2019. ***(PR)***

Church: Guam properties should not be sold to pay sex abuse claims

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—The Catholic Church in Guam says parishes and schools should not be sold to settle more than 200 clergy sexual abuse claims.

The *Pacific Daily News* reported Tuesday that the statement by the Archdiocese of Agana Tuesday was in response to a lawsuit filed by the Official Committee of Unsecured Creditors.

The lawsuit includes a list of Catholic schools, parishes, vehicles and other assets the creditors believe should be considered archdiocese property and liable for sale.

The archdiocese says parishes and schools are not owned by the archdiocese, but rather held in trust, and that the "trust relationship" is supported by Guam statute.

Guam's Catholic Church filed for bankruptcy in January, allowing the archdiocese to avoid trial in dozens of child sexual abuse lawsuits and enter settlement negotiations.

US Naval Hospital Guam to conduct readiness exercise

AGANA HEIGHTS, Guam—The U.S. Naval Hospital Guam will conduct a readiness exercise on April 29, from noon to 4pm, to ensure contingency requirements are up to date.

USNH Guam emergency department will remain open during the date and time indicated. The public should not be alarmed if they see or hear activities associated with the exercise. ***(PR)***

Underwater training in Outer Apra Harbor

ASAN, Guam—U.S. Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 5 will conduct routine underwater detonation training in outer Apra Harbor today, April 12,, from 8am to 4pm.

EODMU-5 will detonate a total of five lbs of explosives at the designated UNDET location on a sandy area of the sea floor.

For the safety of the public and participants involved, the Coast Guard will establish safety zones to restrict access in the vicinity of the training area.

For the safety of personnel and marine life, the area will be visually cleared by divers and by lookouts on the surface before, during and after the exercise. All activity will cease temporarily if a person or marine life is seen in the area. ***(PR)***

CNMI DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
AMERICA'S SBDC CNMI
CDA COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Learn About How to Write a Business Plan

This seminar will cover all the elements to be included in a business plan and explain with examples what is required in each section. The focus of the seminar will be the three M's – Money, Management, & Marketing. Participants will also be provided with a sample business plan, sources of industry research information, and introduced to online business planning tools that are accessible at any time through an internet enabled PC.

Get tips and advice on:
- Tools to use for your business plan
- Resources for your small business

TO REGISTER:
https://pisbdcn.ecenterdirect.com/events/4341

For more information, visit our website at www.pacificsbdc.com or call
CNMI SBDC Office at 664-3018

Date: April 16, 2019
Time: 9:00AM- 11:00AM

FREE TRAINING

Location:
CDA Board Room,
1st Floor, San Jose

Presented by:

Nicole Babauta
Director &
Business Advisor
CNMI SBDC

DISCLAIMER: The Pacific Islands SBDC Network is funded in part through a co-operative agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration. All opinions, conclusions or recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SBA. Requests for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities will be made if requested at least two weeks in advance. Language assistance services are available for limited English proficient individuals with enough advance notice. For arrangements, please contact Lorie Pangilinan, P.O. Box 5795 CHRB, Saipan MP 96950 Tel: (670)664-3018 or Email lorie@pacificsbdc.com. Services are extended to the public on a non-discriminatory basis.

PUBLIC DISCLAIMER NOTICE

Ketson Jack Kabiriel is no longer employed by Safety 1st Systems CNMI, Inc., and Safety 1st Systems CNMI, Inc. is not affiliated with a company called Pacific Blaze in any manner. Any claims by operatives of Pacific Blaze that there is an affiliation are false. Safety 1st Systems CNMI, Inc. is not responsible for any liability as a result of misrepresentation, or error, by Pacific Blaze.

Both before and after the termination of employment of Ketson Jack Kabiriel from Safety 1st Systems CNMI, Inc., there has been confusion by the public concerning Mr. Kabiriel's status with Safety 1st Systems CNMI, Inc. and Pacific Blaze, Inc., a company formed while Mr. Kabiriel was employed at Safety 1st Systems CNMI, Inc..

Safety 1st Systems CNMI, Inc. will protect the health and safety of the individuals, families, homes, government offices and personnel and businesses in the CNMI by making available quality health and safety products meeting all standards established by federal and local applicable law, and by employing trained, certified and qualified personnel.

Before any company or individual is retained to sell, inspect or refill your fire systems and portable fire extinguishers, make sure those companies or individuals meet standards established within NFPA 10 requirement guidelines. Ask to see the certificate of compliance credentials of those doing the work. When hydrostatic testing is to be performed, make sure the service operative has the necessary and required NFPA standard equipment to perform those services.

Safety 1st Systems is proud to have been a part of the CNMI since 1993, and will continue to meet the expectations of our customers. We further claim and guarantee to meet or exceed pricing by any competitor in the CNMI for our products and services. If you can find it cheaper, we will beat any reasonable price offered by any company in the CNMI.

Owners and Management of Safety 1st Systems CNMI, Inc.

TMAX Toyota Tacoma as hole-in-one prize at Hyatt tourney

Atkins Kroll Saipan is another platinum sponsor for this year's 2019 Charity Golf Classic, with a pledge of a new 2019 Toyota Tacoma TMAX Pre-Runner as a hole-in-one prize for one lucky golfer on the day of the tournament

This new 2019 Toyota Tacoma TMAX Pre-Runner, with a suggested retail value of $26,699, will be located at hole No. 13 on the day of the tournament, April 27.

Atkins Kroll Saipan's contribution qualifies the company as a platinum event partner—the highest partnership level across the tournament.

The donation from Atkins Kroll Saipan will aid this year's beneficiaries: Make-A-Wish Foundation of Guam and CNMI, 500 Sails, NMI Rollers Basketball Association, Isla Montessori School, and 4H Marianas.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation grants wishes to children with life-threatening illnesses.

500 Sails promotes traditional Chamorro and Carolinian proa construction and sailing.

NMI Rollers Basketball Association promote the sport of basketball among the youth.

Isla Montessori School strives to blur the boundaries between the island community and institutional schooling.

4H Marianas promotes agriculture.

Atkins Kroll Saipan marketing manager Jeffrey Borja said: "We are excited to partner again with the Charity Golf Classic and support our local community. Caring for our community is a theme that resonates with the Atkins Kroll Saipan team and this year we are proud to once again offer Saipan's most popular light truck as a hole- in-one prize. …Best of luck on the greens to all the participants in this highly popular annual event."

Hyatt general manager Nick K. Nishikawa said this year marks the 23rd anniversary of the charity golf classic, making it a significant event at Hyatt Regency Saipan.

"We are grateful for Atkins Kroll Saipan's generous donation. We hope one lucky golf player makes that shot on the green this April 27 and gets to drive the new Toyota Pre-Runner home. The support of Atkins Kroll Saipan alongside other event sponsors is what makes our mission of caring for our community possible," he said.

Since 1967, Atkins Kroll has served Saipan and sells Toyota cars, as well as Scion, Chevrolet, and Lexus models. ***(Hyatt)***

From left to right, Curtis Dancoe, Atkins Kroll Saipan sales associate; Ty Pauling, Hyatt Regency Saipan F&B director; Vanessa Palacios, Hyatt Regency Saipan executive administrative assistant; Jeffrey Borja, AK Saipan marketing manager; Angel Mendoza, Hyatt Regency Saipan graphic artist; Glen Perez, AK Saipan sales manager; Nicole Sablan, AK Saipan; Vince Tudela, AK Saipan; Loida Francia, AK Saipan; Mark Sablan, AK Saipan sales associate; and Zenn Tomokane, Hyatt Regency Saipan executive sous chef.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas Printing donates services to Hyatt Regency charity golf tournament

From left, Paulo Sorriano, graphic artist; Arnold Ondra, printmaker; Daniel Soliman, graphic artist; Jashlie Reyes, graphic artist; Bernard Lambat, press operator; Tomasa C. Camacho, treasurer; Luis T. Camacho, Marianas Printing president; Delia Marfil, accountant; Ty Pauling, Hyatt Regency Saipan director of Food & Beverage; Danny Son, Hyatt Regency Saipan director of Sales & Marketing; Angel Mendoza, Hyatt Regency Saipan graphic artist; Rosebeth Gregorio, Marianas Printing sales manager; and Zenn Tomokane, Hyatt Regency Saipan executive sous chef.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas Printing supports Hyatt Regency Saipan 23rd Annual Charity Golf Classic this year as a platinum sponsor.

Marianas Printing will donate this year's banquet invitations and tournament brochures featuring event sponsors, holes, and prizes.

The donation from Marianas Printing will aid this year's beneficiaries: Make-A-Wish Foundation of Guam and CNMI, 500 Sails, NMI Rollers Basketball Association, Isla Montessori School, and 4H Marianas.

"As a locally owned company, we are proud of our hard work, community contributions and partnership with Hyatt Regency Saipan. We are happy to maintain our island business throughout the highs and lows of the economy, and we welcome the opportunity to support the golf classic and its mission to help our community," said Marianas Printing owner and president Luis T. Camacho.

Hyatt assistant marketing communications manager Claudine Camacho said: "I am grateful for Marianas Printing's continued community dedication and support with this year's Charity Golf Classic. It is a great pleasure working with a wonderful team that delivers personalized service not only with Hyatt but local service to the people of the CNMI,"

Marianas Printing started in 1976. ***(PR)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIX, Issue No.72

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Candida auris, a dangerous fungus, probably won't kill you. But you should know about it.

Candida auris, a drug-resistant fungal disease, has been called "a creature from the black lagoon." Illinois has seen 154 cases of the mysterious ailment, nearly all in Chicago and surrounding counties. That's the second-highest number in the nation.

Patients in long-term care or who recently had surgery or other invasive medical procedures are the most vulnerable to C. auris, which is not widely infecting healthy people. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has added C. auris to a list of "urgent threats." The ailment is moving around the world, difficult to diagnose and often immune to common antifungal medications. In Illinois, most cases have been treatable, but the disease can be fatal.

Remedies for curtailing the advance of C. auris are familiar. Health care facilities must undergo stringent infection controls, test for new cases and quickly identify any sources passing it along. Visitors and medical workers must wash their hands after touching patients or surfaces. The yeast spreads widely throughout patients' rooms. Some cleanups have reportedly required removing ceiling and floor tiles.

C. auris isn't simply an opportunistic infection. Its rise is additional evidence that becoming too reliant on certain types of drugs may have unintended consequences. Exhibit A is the overuse of antibiotics in doctors' offices and on farms that encourages the development of drug-resistant bacteria. Researchers suspect a similar situation involving C. auris and agricultural fungicides used on crops. So far the origins of C. auris are unclear, with different clusters arising in different areas of the world.

There's no need to panic. But vigilance is required to track C. auris and raise awareness in order to combat it. Officials typically are eager to spread the word about potential health crises, from measles to MRSA. In this case, the CDC issued alerts about fungus to health care facilities, but the New York Times encountered an unusual wall of silence while investigating superbugs such as C. auris. Medical facilities didn't want to scare off patients.

Any attempts to hide the spread of a communicable disease are irresponsible. Knowledge leads to faster prevention and treatment. Patients and their families have a right to know how hospitals and government agencies are responding to a new threat. Medical workers also deserve to be informed of the risks they encounter on the job.

Battling the superbugs requires aggressive responses and, ultimately, scientific advancements. Downplaying outbreaks won't stop their rise.

(c)2019 Chicago Tribune

WE DON'T LIKE TRUMP — SO WE SICCED THE JUSTICE DEPT. ON HIM!
AND WE SICCED THE FBI ON HIM!
WE SICCED ROBERT MUELLER ON HIM!
AND WE SICCED THE LEFT-WING MEDIA ON HIM!
NOW WE'VE SICCED THE IRS ON HIM.
HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT?
ACTUALLY, I'M PRETTY SIC OF IT!
HITCH

Census has no tradition of counting citizens

By BRIANNA CEA and THOMAS WOLF
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Later this month, the Supreme Court will take up Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross' controversial decision to collect the citizenship status of everyone in the country in the 2020 census. In court filings, the Trump administration has defended the citizenship question as normal and inoffensive, part of an "unbroken tradition" whose "pedigree dates back nearly 200 years."

But look closer, as we did, and history tells a different story. Over the last year, we pored over archival material including 19th century census-taker instructions and decades-old papers on government statistics. We discovered that the Trump administration's history is misleading, where it's not outright false.

Never in the census' 230-year history has the decennial questionnaire asked for the citizenship status of everyone in the country. In reality, when a citizenship question was asked at all, it was directed to small segments of the population, such as foreign-born men 21 or older (1890-1910) or foreign-born people (1930-1950), mainly to gauge how well they were assimilating.

What's more, these questions had a bad track record. They were part of an approach that the Census Bureau ultimately rejected as incompatible with its constitutional duty to count every person.

History isn't on Ross' side. But one federal court already bought the administration's "we've done this before" narrative, so it's vital to set the record straight before the nation's highest court is similarly misled and the census is imperiled.

Before 1960, the Census Bureau tried to pursue two goals at once with the decennial census: to count everyone and to collect other information the government needs, such as mortality or employment statistics. This led to major problems. These censuses were tremendously long, enormously expensive, often took years to complete and—most important—were plagued by inaccuracy. Census takers were bogged down seeking out answers to questions such as, is anyone in the household "a prisoner, convict, homeless child, or pauper."

By the 1950s, the Census Bureau was able to apply emerging technology and new statistical methods to evaluate how accurate its population count had been. It was deeply flawed. Later analyses put the undercount of the 1950 census at 5 million to 5.5 million people, including a 12 percent to 13 percent undercount of people that the bureau labeled "nonwhites." The bureau also learned that it could collect better data more cheaply by asking most questions only to portions of the population and extrapolating from there.

So the Census Bureau slimmed down its headcount form to a handful of questions. Everything else it put on a longer survey that went out to small sample groups. It has used that model ever since.

Citizenship-related questions were among the first to go. The bureau took them off the census completely in 1960 (except for New York and Puerto Rico, which had unusual redistricting needs). And, from 1970 onward, citizenship-related questions were only ever on the smaller surveys, like the long form (through 2000) or the American Community Survey (from 2005 on). But census officials never let similar questions back on the headcount form, because they knew that would hurt the count.

The bureau has long recognized that anti-immigrant environments make citizenship questions problematic. In the 1970s, as waves of immigrants from Latin America and Asia arrived here, lawmakers and activists began searching for ways to limit their political power. In the lead-up to the 1980 and 1990 censuses, anti-immigrant groups and their allies pushed the bureau to exclude immigrants in this country illegally from the head count. To do so, the bureau would have to try to collect everyone's citizenship status.

The bureau repeatedly resisted these pressures. Census Bureau director John Keane warned the Senate in 1985 that citizenship questions posed a huge risk because "the Census Bureau could be perceived as an enforcement agency." Efforts to gather this information, he said, would lead people to refuse to participate in the census for fear that their answers could be used against them.

In the lead-up to the 2020 census, President Trump's rhetoric and policies have already created headwinds for an accurate headcount. Bureau research in 2018 found that 35 percent of Asian respondents, 34 percent of black/African American respondents, and 32 percent of Latino respondents feared information about them would be illegally shared with other government agencies (as compared with 24 percent of respondents overall). Adding a citizenship question will not help matters.

When the issue lands before the Supreme Court on April 23, the history of the census will be central to the arguments. That history should make it clear: There's no justification for a citizenship question in 2020.

Brianna Cea is a research and program assistant in the democracy program at the Brennan Center for Justice at the New York University School of Law. Thomas Wolf is counsel in the same program.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Learning by serendipity

By ED STEPHENS JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

You don't have to look too far to see the South Korean flag, or, for that matter, go all that far to see Korea itself. As for the flag, it's composed entirely of iconology from ancient wisdom. As for my short list of countries I'd be entirely happy to live in, South Korea certainly rates a spot.

As for the ancient wisdom, if it wasn't for a friendship between some Korean laborers and a soldier in the U.S. Army, a book that introduced that wisdom to many American readers would have never been written. I refer to a favorite that I mention to *Saipan Tribune* readers from time to time, *Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance,* by Robert Pirsig. It was first published in 1974.

I used to provide passages of this book to some of my flight students so they could cultivate a broader sense of situational awareness.

Anyway, back to Pirsig's case, his story is instructive in several ways, some inspiring, some cautionary. During an uneasy stint in college he regarded the institutional version of the "truth" as suspect. He wound up vexed by the notion and got booted from school. After that he drifted a bit and then wound up joining the Army.

He was stationed in South Korea and made friends with Korean laborers who wanted to improve their English. Pirsig and his new friends would hang out during his off-duty hours. He relates how he once told his friends, as they were enjoying a picnic, "how amazing it is that everything in the universe can be described by the 26 written characters with which they have been working."

His friends nodded yes but said no.

This set Pirsig on the trail of wisdom that considered truth as something bigger than the words meant to represent it. This held the solution to the problem that had vexed him in college.

Freshly acquainted with this Eastern wisdom, Pirsig returned to college to study philosophy.

As things turned out his woes weren't ending, they were just beginning, but at least a great book came out of it.

South Korea was really the pivotal point of Pirsig's story because it provided the great discovery, the treasure, in his narrative. But outside of all the ponderous philosophical issues he discusses there's a simpler fact to heed. Had Pirsig not been willing to interact with the Koreans to begin with, and willing to learn some of their ways and their thoughts, the pathway to his discovery, and his book, would never have opened up.

We could call this "learning by serendipity." It might be the most powerful source of learning of all. It's informal, it can't be forced, it demands no tuition, it has no address, mommy and daddy can't bribe your way in, and it grants no diplomas. You have to earn it but there aren't any discernable standards. It's obtained with attention, awareness, and, frequently, via kindness with strangers who might be in strange lands.

Had Pirsig spent all of his off-post hours getting drunk and looking down on the locals (South Korea was not a rich nation in the late 1940s), he would have returned to the states without his trove of exotic insights.

Saipan is really blessed on this count, given that it's a nexus of so many interesting cultures, but to take advantage of the situation requires a certain sort of inquisitiveness that's not always abundant here or anywhere else. Although the CNMI can buck this trend in some cases, at least for awhile, the global embrace of the electronic trance at the expense of human awareness is snowballing.

That gig started rolling long before the Internet. Here's an observation someone made about encountering Americans who lived in cities: The people "seem to go through huge portions of their lives without much consciousness of what's immediately around them... You don't count...You're not on TV."

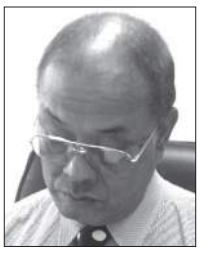
Whose observation is that? It's Pirsig's in *Zen and Art of Motorcycle Maintenance.*

April will bring the second anniversary of Robert Pirsig's passing. But his observations, well, they will never go away. In the meantime, I don't have to look far for a reminder: the South Korean flag will do just fine.

Everbody home?

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.



The wellbeing of private industry here should matter to all.

When it expands in healthy ways it helps upgrade the quality of life across the archipelago. It creates jobs and gives people work opportunities to earn a living to meet basic family needs. Money moves about in the economy. More power to villagers!

While it grants that sense of optimism I had to ask myself: what's the consequence of the departure of Nippon investments in recent past? Is anyone monitoring this ominous situation?

Isn't this a wake-up tale that we shift ignorance and arrogance into a more lasting relationship with investors from near and far? Shouldn't this be the paradigm dealing with investors from the Land of the Rising Sun and elsewhere?

I would think policymakers are fully wary of it so it is handled and disposed as a serious matter over business as usual. Or is my assessment shortsighted or acutely accurate?

The combined loss from the storms and investment exit is about $14 billion money that is no longer being recycled in the local economy. Even more troubling is the apparent lack of another industry to cushion the humongous loss. Dazed, we sing our rendition of *White Christmas* even during the Lenten Season!

Why does it matter to me? Financial security isn't an issue one could guarantee beyond the usual frequent fluctuation throughout the course of the year. Other than a small tourism industry is there any other rock-solid economic component to scaffold mounting obligations at home?

Now sit back and watch the bankruptcy floor collapse! Everbody home?

Fiduciary: Have you factually emplaced policies to encourage expansion of private industry to spur both jobs and income for the islands? Or is your juvenile view to fast track steady economic contraction? Do you have any sense of depth of perception and purpose other than overlooking these issues?

Yes, I'm making an appeal that you return to realistic paradigms to reassess what happens when you ignore and neglect the exit of Nippon investments here. It's about the quality of life of our people in the villages. It's about family income that pays for the first family home, automobile, food, clothing, and other obligations. Why would you slam it into your "not yet, already" file?

Issue: Your focus should be on "wealth and jobs creation." Or is the concept above your nimble mind? It's about money and jobs for locals! *Komprende* or "not yet, already?"

The exit would further translate into far less job opportunities and income for locals associated with firms that have left in recent past or slated to leave. Where would these employees go for their next jobs? The loss of revenue is the other challenge in terms of its replacement.

Has private industry seen a surge in new business ventures here recently? Or is there a lull while we struggle to figure out the apparent uncertainty of investments here? Troubling, isn't it when there are more questions than there are answers from our esteemed men of wisdom.

New MW rate: About 20 states have implemented a $15-an-hour minimum wage that equally triggered a tsunami of small business closures and job losses.

Small business owners simply decided to close down given the high cost of operations and healthcare payment they remit for employees. Goes to show that some good news aren't necessarily so, when the opposite effect hits home.

Beyond: I'd hum a favorite *kanaka* tune (*Beyond the Rainbow*) while doing home chores, reading or scribbling. It gives me the opportunity to take an imaginary trip to an island somewhere alone to relax in all its simplicity.

There are the natural settings of the land and sea for sustenance and a seaside cave for shelter while birds sing happily about at dawn. At sunset, I see the rainbow in the horizon as distant skies gathering clouds chase it down threatening a rainstorm. Nature!

Beyond the reef a canoe sails home at sunset. It must be a long journey or returning fishermen after a whole day floating out in the deep blue.

Though the discordant noise of events around us make for that imperfect day in tropical paradise. I'd sail home quietly to the mellifluous melody, *Beyond the Rainbow*, to maintain sanity!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Still waiting to be paid

It was a difficult time after the storm and all available resources were called to help in the recovery, manpower, and especially heavy equipment to remove debris, clear roads, easements, and deliver resources to fix damaged property like power poles and lines.

My small company, like so many others, rented one piece of heavy equipment to Rene Batallones of Motion Automotive Repair Center so that he could service his own contract on Tinian but he did not honor his contract and paid less than half the amount he owed me for my boom truck.

During the recovery, the government made sure that companies did not take advantage of the urgent need for goods and services but small companies also needed that protection because there are unscrupulous operators who promise to pay you a certain price, take your property for his use, make money and then pay you less than half of what you are owed.

As I understand things, Mr. Batallones has already been paid by the U.S. contractors who came to the island to fix our infrastructure. For the future, it is important for American companies to know what kind of people they are contracting to provide these important services. I think they would want to hire companies that get the job done well and pay subcontractors who make it possible for Mr. Batallones to perform his contract.

It is important for the people of the Commonwealth to know that he has not honored his commitment to me and still owes over half of the large sum he has received from his American company, paid for with FEMA money. When he returned my equipment from Tinian, it needed repairs plus I lost the money I could have earned on Saipan had I used the equipment.

People are complaining about exorbitant charges for towing fees charged to cars from Garapan and it is important for the public to know that Mr. Batallones's company has the exclusive towing contract from the government. The pubic has a right to know the terms of his contract with Mr. Batallones to make sure he is honoring its terms.

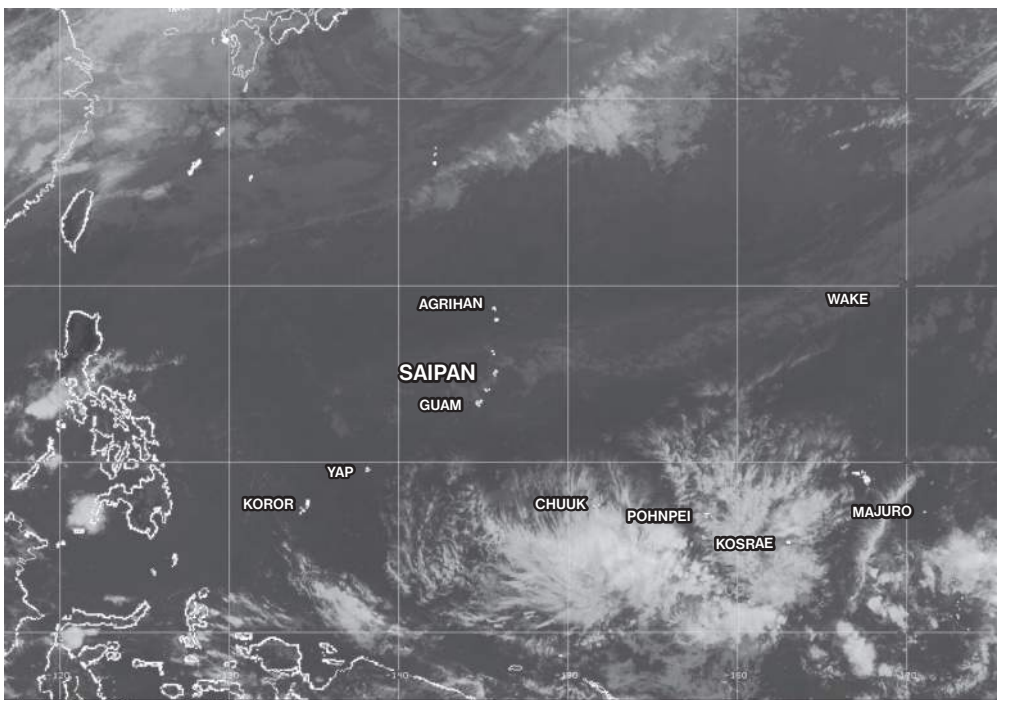
Waheed Nawaz
Zaid Enterprises
Heavy Equipment Rental & Other Services

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of light showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.
86° 77°	89° 77°	88° 77°	89° 77°	89° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 4:00 AM, THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2019
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Gentle to moderate trade winds and combined seas of 4 to 5 feet will persist through Friday night. Winds are expected to become moderate to fresh over the weekend with seas building to 6 to 7 feet by Sunday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Cloudy	87° / 77°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 79°
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 79°
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	84° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Sunny	63° / 52°
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	72° / 43°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	79° / 73°
Honolulu	Windy	82° / 70°
London	Mostly Cloudy	54° / 46°
Los Angeles	Sunny	77° / 57°
Manila	Cloudy	95° / 81°
Melbourne	Showers	63° / 52°
Miami	Sunny	82° / 76°
New York	Thunderstorms	64° / 46°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	64° / 48°
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	61° / 46°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	66° / 50°
Rome	Sunny	66° / 46°
Salem	Sunny	72° / 49°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	57° / 49°
Seoul	Sunny	64° / 43°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	66° / 50°
Washington, DC	Showers	74° / 61°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
1:30 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.71
06:47 AM	LOW TIDE	1.24
11:27 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.69
7:14 PM	LOW TIDE	-0.11

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:05 AM	6:30 PM
Saturday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM
Sunday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM
Monday	6:03 AM	6:31 PM
Tuesday	6:02 AM	6:31 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	11:26 AM	-	-
Saturday	-	12:46 AM	12:25 PM
Sunday	-	1:42 AM	1:26 PM
Monday	-	2:35 AM	2:27 PM
Tuesday	-	3:26 AM	3:27 PM

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769.
E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 1, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:56am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 3, 5, 7
7C3451	3:30am	6:30am	4

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	1:35am	5:20am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:15am	8:50pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/1939:15am		10:40pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:20am	11:40am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:35am	8:25am	1
UO43	5:50am	8:40am	3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:12am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	3

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 5, 6
TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ625	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ625	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	3:55pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	9:45pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:25pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/174	11:30pm	8:12am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	00:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:25pm	1:20am+1	7
UO42	9:25pm	4:20am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	10:45pm	8:12am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Mitsubishi Eclipse Cross at HANMI golf tournament

Golf much? How about cruising to the course in a 2019 Mitsubishi Eclipse Cross?

Triple J Motors is offering the vehicle as a hole-in-one prize at the 18th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament on May 11, 2019, at Laolao Bay Golf & Resort west course.

"The keys to a 2019 Mitsubishi Eclipse Cross will handed over to the first golfer to hit a hole-in-one on Hole 17" said Randy Steele, Triple J Motors general manager. "But you don't have to be a skilled golfer to drive off in a new Eclipse Cross as the vehicle is on sale now at Triple J Motors."

The 2019 Eclipse Cross is Mitsubishi's flashy new offering in the small SUV/crossover market. The Eclipse Cross is powered by a 4-cylinder turbo engine and automatic transmission and is loaded with "convenience" features such as a 7" touch panel, audio display that also serves as a back-up camera monitor. The Eclipse Cross also offers Apple CarPlay and Android Auto compatibility.

"Triple J Motors always comes through in helping to make the annual HANMI tournament one of the best of the year, and this year is no exception," said tournament chair Steve Balakrishna. "It's a great car, it's a great tournament, and we thank Triple J for the partnership and for making it possible for HANMI to help many worthy organizations throughout the year."

The tournament is open to the first 144 paid registrants and follows a black-jack double Peoria format. Cash, cars, hotel night stays, and other prizes await the winners.

The early bird tournament fee for those who register by April. 26, 2019, at 5pm is $100. The fee increases to $120 after the early bird deadline. The fee includes green fee and the awards banquet. For an additional $30, players may also compete for optional play prizes, including Accurate Drive on Line (hole No. 9), Accurate Drive Circle (hole No. 5), Aggressive Drive (hole No. 12), Longest Drive (hole No. 18), and Nearest to the Pin (hole Nos. 3, 7, 13, and 17).

The tournament will start at 7am, and the awards banquet will be held the same day at 6pm at Grandvrio Resort Saipan.

Registration forms are now available at: Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Hyatt Regency Saipan, or www.facebook.com/HANMI670.

Sponsors can avail of complimentary player slots for several levels of support: $1,200 or more cash, maximum two complimentary slots; $600-$1,999 cash, one complimentary slot; or $600 or more in-kind donation, one complimentary slot.

For more information, contact Balakrishna at steve.balakrishna@picsaipan.com or 1.670.234.7976 or visit www.facebook.com/HANMI670. ***(PR)***

Triple J Motors donates a 2019 Mitsubishi Eclipse Cross as a hole-in-one prize for the 18th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament on May 11, 2019, at Laolao Bay Golf Resort on Saipan. Top, from left, Triple J Motors assistant general manager in training Sean Ficke; and Triple J Saipan Inc. business manager Perry Inos. Bottom, from left, Triple J Motors sales team member Justine Chan; tournament committee members Socorro Huliganga, Das Krishnan, and Franco Santos; tournament chair Steve Balakrishna; Triple J Saipan, Inc. marketing manager Maria Valentina Haberman, and Hertz Rent-A-Car general manager Alex Camacho. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW19-RFP-002

ARCHITECTURAL-ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF SUGAR DOCK FACILITY

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed Proposals for **Architectural-Engineering Services for the Reconstruction of Sugar Dock Facility**, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated 2004 ed. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with **§70-30.3-305** of the regulations.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

Prior to being awarded a design contract, the firm or company must have or obtain a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Board of Professional Licensing. Information about obtaining a COA may be requested from Ms. Esther S. Fleming, Executive Director, at telephone numbers (670)234-5897/5898 or by facsimile to (670) 234-6040.

The RFP Package and Scope of Work is available on or after **March 28, 2019** at the Department of Public Works, Office of the Secretary, 2nd Floor, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **Fifty Dollars ($50.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

A Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. local time at the **Department of Public Works Conference Room**, 2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Building on **April 16, 2019**. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan, no later than 4:30 p.m. local time April 26, 2019.

SELECTION CRITERIA: This procurement is made in accordance with §70-30.3-305 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations, 2004 ed. Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications of the principal(s) and assigned staff – 25%
2. Experience of the firm(s) on similar type projects – 25%
3. Project Approach – 35%
4. Schedule of Completion – 15%

The entire Proposal must not be more than Twenty-Five (25) pages in length. A firm that submits a Proposal as a prime consultant cannot submit as a subconsultant on another Proposal. However, a sub-consultant may submit as sub-consultant on proposals by more than one prime consultant.

The successful Proposer shall be subject to a responsibility determination in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, **§70-30.3-245**.

Proposals must be sealed and marked "**DPW19-RFP-002**". For Proposers located within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, May 10, 2019**. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, May 10, 2019**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@cnmidof.net. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **May 10, 2019** – AND must be received no later than **May 21, 2019**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Discussion shall be conducted with at least three of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. Fee proposals is solicited; however, this information shall not be considered in the selection of the most highly qualified Firms. Fee proposals may be used in determing a fair and reasonable price.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive any imperfections in any Proposal in the best interest of the Government. All Proposals shall become the property of the Government.

JAMES A. ADA
Acting Secretary of Public Works

JOE A. TUDELA
Acting Director, Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW19-IFB-012

LALANGHA ROAD AND DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for **Lalangha Road and Drainage Improvement Project**, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **April 12, 2019** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Teasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **April 30, 2019,** 9:00 a.m. local time at the Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **May 8, 2019** to **Ms. Lorraine Seman, Acting Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening**.

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW19-IFB-012"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time May 13, 2019**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, May 13, 2019**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to **procurement@cnmidof.net**. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **May 13, 2019** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **May 22, 2019**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, May 27, 2019**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on May 13, 2019**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000.00)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash
2) US Gov't Securities
3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred (US$100.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA
Acting Secretary of Public Works

JACK REYES
Acting Director of Procurement & Supply

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
PROJECT NO.: CPA-RFP-007-19

BID SUBMISSION DEADLINE: APRIL 26, 2019 TIME: 4:00 P.M.

AIRLINE STAIRS MAINTENANCE SERVICE AND REPAIRS SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is requesting proposals from qualified and experienced companies, corporations, and/or firms to provide the CPA with Airline Stairs maintenance service and repairs. The Executive Director determines that the use of an Invitation for Bid is neither practical nor advantageous to the CPA because the CPA wishes to acquire services and or products that cannot be evaluate by cost alone (NMIAC § 40-50-225(a)).

All works shall take place at the Saipan International Airport, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Proposal Package is available for pick-up beginning April 5, 2019, at the Executive Director's Office, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport. The proposer shall guarantee that all contents of their proposal shall be valid for a period of 60 calendar days from the due date of proposals.

A mandatory pre-proposal meeting will take place on April 17, 2019, at 10:00 AM at the CPA conference room, 2nd Floor, Departure Terminal Building for questions and/or clarifications on this project. Proposals will only be accepted from those proposers who attended this meeting.

Proposers are to submit one (1) original and two (2) copies of their proposals to the Office of the Executive Director no later than 4:00 PM, April 26, 2019.

This RFP is issued pursuant to Chapter 40-40 of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (the "NMIAC"). Title 40, including chapter 40-50-225, Request for Proposals, is applicable to the process followed by the RFP.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding proposal rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects of said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315

As of April 12, 2019
NOTICE OF APPLICATION

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Johnston Applied Marine Sciences	02/27/2019 SLRm-2019-X-18	Coral Nursery	Managaha Marine Conservation Area	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 03/28/2019
2. Department of Lands & Natural Resources	03/19/2019 SS-2019-X-021	Geotechnical Survey (boreholes)	Garapan, Saipan	Shoreline	Approved 04/01/2019
3. Department of Public Works	03/20/2019 TSm-2019-X-001	Beach Clean Up	Lazarino Beach, Tinian	Shoreline	Approved 04/08/2019*
4. Ronald A. Smith	03/27/2019 SPI-2019-X-023	Drydock	Lower Base, Saipan	Drydock	Approved 04/01/2019*
5. Saipan Sea Cruises, Inc.	03/27/2019 SPI-2019-X-024	Drydock	Lower Base, Saipan	Drydock	Approved 04/01/2019*
6. Mobil Oil Marianas, Inc.	04/05/2019 SPI-88-X-48 Amendment 2019-1	Fuel Tank Farm	Puerto Rico, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Under Review*
7. Pacific Grovel Development, Ent.	04/10/2019 SPI-2019-X-025	Drydock	Puerto Rico, Saipan	Drydock	Under Review*
8. Pacific Marine Enterprises, Inc.	04/11/2019 SPI-2019-X-026	Drydock	Puerto Rico, Saipan	Drydock	Under Review*
9. Department of Lands & Natural Resources - Division of Fish & WildLife	03/08/2019 RPIm-2019-X-0308	Rota West Harbor Small Boat Marina	West Harbor, Rota	Ports & Industrial	Under Review*
10. Keith J. Stewart DBA Isa Villas Partners, LLC	02/28/2019 SMS-2017-X-111 Amendment 2019-1	Isa Villas Partners, LLC	Capitol Hill, Saipan	Major Siting - Existing	Approved* 04/09/2019

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Business

Trick or treat? EU, UK agree to delay Brexit until Halloween

BRUSSELS (AP)—As if Brexit hadn't spooked Britain and the European Union enough over the past three years, the two sides agreed early Thursday to extend the deadline to Halloween.

The new, Oct. 31 cutoff date averts a precipitous and potentially calamitous Brexit that had been scheduled for Friday.

"Please, do not waste this time," European Council President Donald Tusk pleaded. He said the EU was giving Britain six more months "to find the best possible solution" to its Brexit impasse.

Like many things related to Brexit, the extension was a messy compromise. May came to an emergency summit in Brussels seeking to postpone Britain's departure from the EU until June 30. Some European leaders favored a longer extension, while French President Emmanuel Macron was wary of anything but a very short delay.

Leaders of the 27 remaining EU member states met for more than six hours over a dinner of scallop and cod before settling on the end of October, with the possibility of an earlier Brexit if Britain ratifies a withdrawal agreement.

May said the possibility of leaving before the deadline was a key request of hers.

"I continue to believe we need to leave the EU, with a deal, as soon as possible," she told reporters.

She noted that if U.K. lawmakers back her Brexit deal, Britain could still leave by June 30—the Brexit deadline she had requested from the bloc—and possibly as soon as May 22, which would release Britain from having to participate in elections for the European Parliament.

May spoke to the 27 EU leaders for just over an hour, before they met for dinner without her to decide Britain's fate. In contrast to some testy recent summits, there were signs of warmth, even humor. May and German Chancellor Angela Merkel were filmed laughing over a tablet bearing an image showing the two of them speaking to their respective Parliaments on Wednesday while wearing similar blue jackets.

While many leaders said they were inclined to grant a Brexit delay, Macron expressed reservations, warning as he arrived at the summit that "nothing is decided."

Afterward, the French president said he was satisfied with the outcome.

"We did the best possible compromise to preserve the unity of the 27 (other EU members) because we have left the United Kingdom more time to deliver a deal," Macron said.

Tusk said that during the extension Britain "will continue its sincere cooperation as a full member state, with all its rights, and as a close friend and trusted ally in the future."

Several months have passed since May and the EU struck a deal laying out the terms of Britain's departure and the outline of future relations. All that was needed was ratification by the British and European Parliaments.

China's spreading influence in Eastern Europe worries West

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP)—Coal-powered plants, mobile networks, major bridges, roads and railways: Chinese investments have been booming throughout Central and Eastern Europe's cash-strapped developing countries, even as European Union officials scramble to counter Beijing's mounting economic and political influence on the continent.

EU member Croatia is hosting a summit Thursday between China and 16 regional countries—the 8th so far—that focuses on expanding business and other links between China and the region, which Beijing sees as a gateway into Europe.

The gathering in Dubrovnik of the so-called 16+1 initiative consists of Central and Eastern European countries that have endorsed China's ambitious global "Belt and Road" investment project, which has triggered concerns among some key EU states about increased Chinese political and economic clout in the region.

China has already invested billions of dollars in various infrastructure projects in Central and Eastern Europe. Western leaders worry that further investment in the states that are EU members—or those hoping to join—could mean lower environmental and other standards than those in the rest of the bloc.

Thorny issues include the flouting of EU competition rules, potential over-borrowing by some of the states, the quality of constructions, and security concerns over high-speed 5G network technology supplied by Chinese companies. Critics also say that in return for allowing Chinese expansion into the region, Beijing should give better reciprocal access for European companies to Chinese markets.

Top Chinese officials have sought to alleviate EU fears of unfair competition from Chinese state-controlled companies, which benefit from the government's financial backing. Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed during a recent visit to Paris to work with European leaders to seek fairer international trade rules.

Of the 16 participating countries—Albania, Bosnia, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, and Slovenia—11 are EU member states, and the remaining five want to join.

Nation

Trump administration appeals court ruling over asylum policy

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The Trump administration on Wednesday appealed a judge's ruling that would block the government from returning asylum seekers to Mexico to await court hearings.

The one-sentence appeal filed in the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals did not immediately ask to stop the lower court ruling from going into effect Friday.

Judge Richard Seeborg has given the government until the end of the week to ask for a stay of Monday's ruling, in which he granted a request by civil liberties groups to halt the practice while their lawsuit moves forward.

Trump

The administration's policy violated U.S. law by failing to adequately evaluate dangers migrants face in Mexico, Seeborg said. He said a law cited by government officials did not apply to the 11 asylum seekers who sued.

The U.S. took the unprecedented action at the nation's busiest border crossing—in San Diego—in response to growing numbers of families fleeing poverty and gang violence in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

About 1,000 migrants have been sent back to Mexico since the policy went into effect in January and was later expanded across the California border and to West Texas.

Families seeking asylum that typically would have been released in the U.S. with notices to appear in court were instead sent back to Mexico to await their hearings.

The administration had hoped the move would discourage weak asylum claims and help reduce an immigration court backlog of more than 800,000 cases.

Under the new policy, asylum seekers were not guaranteed interpreters or lawyers and couldn't argue to a judge that they face the potential of persecution or torture in Mexico, the American Civil Liberties Union argued.

The San Francisco ruling came up Wednesday at a case in El Paso, Texas, where lawyers for a Salvadoran man who said he had been threatened in Mexico asked for permission to stay in the U.S. while his case proceeds.

A Homeland Security attorney assured the judge that the man would not be sent back to Mexico, even though the California court decision doesn't take effect until Friday.

President Donald Trump had criticized the ruling as unfair. His administration has said it's trying to cope with a crisis at the southern border.

While Border Patrol arrests, the most widely used gauge of illegal crossings, have risen sharply over the last year, they are relatively low in historical terms after hitting a 46-year low in 2017.

ACROSS THE NATION

Bomb cyclone storm hammering central US, disrupting travel

Blizzard warnings were posted from Colorado to Minnesota on Wednesday and wildfires were a concern in New Mexico, Texas and Oklahoma as the second so-called "bomb cyclone" storm in less than a month hit the central U.S., raising the prospect of renewed flooding in the already drenched Midwest. Heavy snow disrupted ground and air travel Wednesday. Roads became impassable and visibility was down to a few feet in northeastern South Dakota due to heavy snowfall. About half of the daily flights at Denver International Airport were canceled. Up to 2 ½ feet (0.61 meters) of snow was expected to fall in parts of eastern South Dakota and southwestern Minnesota, the National Weather Service said. Winds in excess of 50 mph (80.46 kph) also were expected, creating life-threatening conditions.

Family seeks answers in immigrant's death after detention

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A 27-year-old man died in a California hospital after he suffered a brain hemorrhage while detained by U.S. immigration authorities, his wife said Wednesday, demanding to know what caused his injury and whether he received appropriate medical care in custody. Melissa Castro said she was called Feb. 8 by an Immigration and Customs Enforcement official and told that her husband had a "passing out episode" while in the custody of detention officials in Adelanto, California, and had been taken to the hospital. Castro, who had delivered the couple's baby five days earlier, said she found Jose Luis Ibarra Bucio in an intensive care unit and in a coma from which he never awoke. Castro said she wants to know what happened to her husband, who was young and had no prior health problems. She said she heard from doctors that he had been airlifted from another hospital. She said she also wants to know why ICE had him shackled to his hospital bed in a coma and signed papers releasing him from custody two weeks later.

Police: Coffee shop owner killed, 17 hurt in gas explosion

DURHAM, N.C. (AP)—A leaking gas line exploded Wednesday in a Durham shopping district, killing one person and injuring more than a dozen others as firefighters were evacuating people from buildings near the rupture, authorities said. The blast reverberated across the North Carolina city—turning one building to rubble, shattering windows blocks away and filling the air with acrid smoke. The owner of a coffee shop at the site of the blast was identified Wednesday night as the person who died. Jim Rogalski, 58, was working in his office across the street from the destroyed building when the explosion blew out the windows. At least four people working in cubicles by the windows suffered deep cuts, bloody head wounds and other injuries, he said. "There was lots of screaming. ..." Rogalski said. "It was pretty frantic there for a little bit until help showed up." Rogalski was seated one row away from the windows and wasn't hurt.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-19-004

SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND COMMISSIONING OF DIESEL GENERATING SETS FOR THE WATER SYSTEM MITIGATION PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified vendors for the Supply, Installation and Commissioning for the Water System Mitigation Project for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and CUC.

Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the proposal must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-RFP-19-004, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Diesel Generating Sets for the Water System Mitigation Project"*** to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on April 16, 2019**. Proposals mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Proposal shall be submitted on the provided Proposal Forms. Proposals will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 3, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org, CUC-Power Generation Manager, Richard Cano via email address richard.cano@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
P.O. Box 501220, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. Nos. (670) 664-4282 Fax (670) 235-5131

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-19-018
Koa Lane 6-Inch Waterline Project

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Koa Ln Waterline Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general installation of a new 6-inch waterline main and 2-inch service line; connection to the existing water main; installation of gate valve assembly, flush hydrants, air release valves, and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by ***Saipan PL 19-23, 19-24, 19-27 and 20-26***.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **240 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $150.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **April 22, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-19-018, Koa Lane Waterline Project"**, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 10, 2019**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered**.

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 23, 2019** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Larry Manacop, CUC Water/Wastewater Acting Chief Engineer via email larry.manacop@cucgov.org, Birhen Martinez, Water Division, Junior Engineer via email birhen.martinez@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

CUC IS AN AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

Asia

Trump critic is favorite to become Australian prime minister

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—If Australian opposition leader Bill Shorten becomes prime minister and visits the U.S., he can expect questions about a radio interview he gave three years ago in which he said some of then-presumptive Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump's views were "barking mad."

Trump seemed a long shot for the White House when Shorten gave the interview on May 27, 2016, during Australia's last election campaign.

And Shorten, who leads the center-left Labor Party, seemed a long shot to become Australia's prime minister.

He was trying to become the first Australian opposition leader to oust a prime minister after a single three-year term since 1931, when the Great Depression helped scuttle a Labor government.

But Shorten came closer than many had expected.

Conservative Prime Minister Malcom Turnbull scraped back into power with a single-seat majority in the House of Representatives, where parties need a majority of seats to form a government. Turnbull's conservative coalition had lost 14 lawmakers.

Turnbull pounced on Shorten's swipe at Trump as evidence that the Labor leader wasn't fit to lead Australia.

Turnbull accused Shorten of potentially offending Australia's most important strategic ally by breaking a long-standing Australian convention of avoiding taking sides in U.S. political contests.

Shorten had told a Darwin radio station that a Trump administration was among "the sort of scenarios you hope don't emerge."

"I think Donald Trump's views are just barking mad on some issues," Shorten said.

"America's a great friend of Australia; whoever they dish up we'll work with, but wow, Trump's sort of—it's sort of the ultimate victory of celebrity politics," he said.

Shorten described Trump's popularity as the "ultimate protest vote," and warned that Australia should pursue policies of fairness and equality.

The political landscapes in Australia and the United States have transformed since 2016.

Shorten's party goes into the 2019 election campaign as a firm favorite. His party has led the conservative coalition in most opinion polls in the last three years.

Turnbull was replaced by senior minister Scott Morrison in a revolt by ruling Liberal Party lawmakers at least partly because of the government's poor performance in opinion polls.

The government lost two lawmakers and its majority in continuing blood-letting from the leadership change.

Despite Labor's dominance in the polls, Shorten's personal popularity has remained relatively low. But Australia's system of compulsory voting means Shorten's lack of charisma is not the political handicap it might be in U.S politics.

Because failing to vote is punished with a fine, voter turnout in Australia is always high even when the choices are not particularly attractive.

While there are Labor lawmakers who are more popular with the Australian public, Shorten is a powerbroker who has enjoyed strong support within his party for the past six years of his leadership.

AP

Australian Labor Party leader Bill Shorten greets guests at the national remembrance service in Hagley Park for the victims of the March 15 mosques terrorist attack in Christchurch, New Zealand, Friday, March 29, 2019.

New Zealand Parliament passes sweeping gun restrictions

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—New Zealand's Parliament on Wednesday passed sweeping gun laws that outlaw military style weapons, less than a month after the mass shootings at two mosques in Christchurch where 50 people were killed and dozens were wounded.

A bill outlawing most automatic and semi-automatic weapons and banning components that modify existing weapons was passed by a vote of 119 to 1 in the House of Representatives after an accelerated process of debate and public submission.

The bill needs only the approval of New Zealand's governor general, a formality, before becoming law on Friday.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern spoke emotionally during the bill's final reading of the traumatic injuries suffered by victims of the March 15 attack, whom she visited in Christchurch Hospital after the shootings.

"I struggle to recall any single gunshot wounds," Ardern said. "In every case they spoke of multiple injuries, multiple debilitating injuries that deemed it impossible for them to recover in days, let alone weeks. They will carry disabilities for a lifetime, and that's before you consider the psychological impact. We are here for them."

"I could not fathom how weapons that could cause such destruction and large-scale death could be obtained legally in this country," she said.

Australian Brenton Harrison Tarrant, 28, was charged with 50 counts of murder and 39 counts of attempted murder. The royal commission set up to investigate issues surrounding the massacre is examining how he obtained a gun license in New Zealand and purchased weapons and ammunition.

Ardern, who has won international praise for her compassion and leadership since the shootings, was able to win rare bipartisan support for a bill that makes it illegal to own a military-style semi-automatic rifle. The only dissent was from the libertarian ACT Party's lone lawmaker in Parliament.

The law includes a buy-back scheme under which owners of outlawed weapons can surrender them to police in return for compensation based on the weapon's age and condition.

Anyone who retains such a weapon after the law formally passes on Friday faces a penalty of up to five years in prison. Some exemptions have been allowed for heirloom weapons held by collectors or for professional pest control.

Ardern said lawmakers had a responsibility to act on behalf of victims of the shootings.

"We are ultimately here because 50 people died and they do not have a voice," she said. "We in this house are their voice. Today we can use that voice wisely."

"We are here just 26 days after the most devastating terrorist attacks created the darkest of days in New Zealand's history," she said. "We are here as an almost entirely united Parliament. There have been very few occasions when I have seen Parliament come together in this way and I cannot imagine circumstances where that is more necessary than it is now."

Ardern said that there was some opposition from firearms owners, but that the response to the proposed legislation was overwhelmingly positive.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Fire at Bangkok mall complex kills 2, forces big evacuation

BANGKOK (AP)—A fire at one of Bangkok's biggest mall complexes spread smoke over the city's central commercial district, caused a large evacuation during the Wednesday evening rush and killed at least two people. Officials said 20 others were hurt. The extent of the fire was small and flames were quickly extinguished, but it forced hundreds of people to evacuate the shopping mall in the CentralWorld complex, which includes a hotel, a convention center and an office tower. Firefighters with masks and oxygen tanks entered the building afterward to clear smoke from several floors. Smoke was seen still coming from the building several hours later, but the skyline was clear after daybreak Thursday. Bangkok Gov. Assawin Kwanmuang initially told reporters that three people died, one at the scene and two at a hospital. He later said that two people were confirmed dead, but did not explain the discrepancy. The city's Erawan Emergency Radio network said around midnight that 20 people had been injured.

PH bans workers' deployment to Libya amid fighting

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine government on Wednesday imposed a total ban on the deployment of Filipino workers to Libya because of fighting between rival militias for control of the North African nation's capital, the labor chief said.

Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello III said the indefinite ban would affect new Libya-bound workers and even Filipinos scheduled to return there after work breaks. There are more than 2,600 Filipinos in Libya, many working as nurses, teachers and oil industry workers. Fighting for control of the capital has threatened to plunge Libya deeper into chaos and ignite civil war on the scale of the 2011 NATO-supported uprising, which turned into a ruinous conflict that killed longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi. The deployment ban was imposed after the Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila on Monday raised the threat level in Libya's capital to 3 and urged Filipinos and their dependents in Tripoli and outlying areas to consider leaving temporarily to avoid getting caught in the fighting.

Busts in Asia reveal scales from 38,000 endangered pangolins

SINGAPORE (AP)—Singapore seized more than 28 tons of pangolin scales belonging to around 38,000 of the endangered mammals in the past week, a global record that spurred calls for more protection for pangolins, whose scales are used in traditional medicine. The scales were linked to four species of pangolins native to Africa. A record 14.2 tons of the scales were found hidden among packets of frozen beef in shipping containers on April 3. Five days later, they found 14 more tons in 474 bags in another container. The National Parks Board, Singapore Customs and the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority said in a statement Wednesday that the cargo was declared as cassia seeds. Both shipments were en route from Nigeria to Vietnam. "The sheer size of these two latest seizures is unprecedented and will undoubtedly prove a major setback to the traffickers concerned," said Richard Thomas of monitoring network Traffic.

World

Pence says US wants Maduro out and 'all options' on table

AP
United States Vice President Mike Pence, center, address a meeting on Venezuela in the United Nations Security Council, Wednesday April 10, 2019 at U.N. headquarters.

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—U.S. Vice President Mike Pence told the Security Council on Wednesday the Trump administration is determined to remove President Nicolás Maduro from power in Venezuela, preferably through diplomatic and economic pressure, but "all options are on the table"—and Russia and others need to step aside.

Venezuelan Ambassador Samuel Moncada said his country is threatened with war by the Trump administration, "and the ground is being laid for an invasion." He told the council: "We must stop this war of Donald Trump."

The United States called the emergency meeting of the U.N.'s most powerful body, which is deeply divided over Venezuela, to focus on the worsening humanitarian situation in the South American country. But as with previous meetings, this one was dominated by U.S. efforts to oust Maduro and replace him with Juan Guaidó, head of the country's opposition-controlled National Assembly.

Pence also said that Trump has made clear Russia needs to get out of Venezuela, stressing that Russian aircraft landing in the country and bringing in security or advisory personnel "is just unacceptable."

"This is our neighborhood," Pence told reporters afterward. "And the president has made it clear that whether it be Russia, or whether it be other nations, that they need to step aside. They need to cease efforts to stand in the way of economic and diplomatic pressure, and they need to cease supporting the Maduro regime."

Pressed on whether "all options are on the table" meant that military intervention was a closer possibility, Pence said, "We have no timetable for the restoration of freedom."

But he said that since 2017, Trump has made clear that "we're absolutely determined to see freedom and democracy restored in Venezuela" and to see Maduro step down and democracy restored under Guaidó.

Pence urged the United Nations to recognize Guaidó as Venezuela's interim president and revoke Moncada's credentials as his country's U.N. representative. He said the United States would be circulating a resolution that would do this and also stand with the Venezuelan people "as they rise up ... against intimidation and violence," and for freedom.

Looking at Moncada, who was also seated at the horseshoe-shaped Security Council table, Pence said: "With all due respect Mr. Ambassador, you shouldn't be here." He then added: "You should return to Venezuela and tell Nicolás Maduro that his time is up. It's time for him to go."

Pence left immediately after he spoke and didn't hear Moncada say later: "My legitimacy depends on the legitimacy of my government as recognized by the United Nations. It is not dependent on the declarations of ... the vice president of the United States."

"There is a clear move here to undermine our rights," Moncada said.

Maduro said later in a television address that Pence "made a fool of himself" at the council, calling his remarks "ridiculous."

"They think they're superior to Venezuelans. And they think they can give orders to Venezuela," he said. "It's truly visible in the face of Mike Pence. One sees the hate, the racism, the contempt with which he refers to Venezuela."

The United States would need strong support in the 193-member General Assembly to change Venezuela's credentials from the Maduro government to Guaidó, and with only 54 countries now supporting Guaidó as Venezuela's interim president, it faces an uphill struggle.

Castro warns Cubans to brace for shortages

HAVANA (AP)—Communist Party leader Raúl Castro warned Cubans on Wednesday that they should brace for worsening shortages due to Trump administration policies, but said the island won't return to the extreme deprivation of the post-Soviet period.

In his first speech to the nation in more than three months, Castro said that U.S. pressure on Venezuela and Cuba could lead to serious shortages increasing sharply in coming months.

It has become hard to find basic goods such as chicken, cooking oil, eggs and flour throughout Cuba this year, due largely to a lack of hard currency to buy imported goods or equipment to process domestic products. State-run newspapers cut their page count last week due to shortages of newsprint, and Castro indicated that the government would engage in further cutbacks due to cash shortfalls.

"We've taken a series of decision to focus the development of the economy, and to resist and overcome the new obstacles imposed by the hardening of the economic siege," Castro said. "We need to be aware of growing problems, and the situation could grow worse in the next few months."

Cuba's centrally planned economy has lost hundreds of millions of dollars in income in recent months due to problems in deals with leftist allies and former allies. Brazil's new right-wing President Jair Bolsonaro canceled a contract employing thousands of Cuban doctors late last year. The collapse of Venezuela's economy is believed to cost additional hundreds of millions in cutbacks to aid to Cuba, although neither country releases figures.

Castro spoke at a ceremony in which a new constitution, approved in a February referendum, went into effect. The National Assembly is now expected to pass a series of laws updating elements of the Cuban state, ranging from the electoral system to the family code. Cuban officials say there are no major economic reforms pending for one of the world's last Soviet-style systems, despite the increasingly tough situation.

While he warned of worsening shortages, Castro said that the hunger and desperation that hit Cuba after the fall of its Soviet patron in 1991 would not return, thanks to Cuba's diversified economy—with nearly 5 million tourists a year and direct investment from Europe, Asia and Latin America.

"It's not about returning to the harshest phase of the Special Period of the '90s," Castro said. "Today it's a different scenario in terms of the diversification of the economy, although we do have to be prepared for the worst."

Along with sanctions on Venezuela, Cuba's closest ally and economic patron, the Trump administration has made it harder to visit Cuba and has threatened to allow U.S. lawsuits against foreign investors here.

Despite the pressure, Castro said Cuba would not abandon President Nicolás Maduro and his administration.

"We will never abandon our duty to act in solidarity with Venezuela, or renounce a single one of our principles, and we energetically reject all pressure and blackmail," Castro said.

Israel's election exposes its deep political divisions

JERUSALEM (AP)—Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's apparent election victory has deepened the divisions in an already-divided country.

Bolstered by his base of religious and working-class voters, Netanyahu can be expected to press ahead with a hard-line agenda that will likely eliminate the last hopes of a two-state solution with the Palestinians. A looming indictment in a series of corruption scandals could even accelerate these trends.

For all the talk of unity from political leaders during the campaign, Israel is a deeply tribal country. People are divided between Jews and Arabs; religious Jews and secular Jews; Jews of European ancestry and those of Middle Eastern heritage; and residents of the secular, high-tech metropolis of Tel Aviv and people from dusty, outlying towns, West Bank settlements and the conservative capital of Jerusalem.

Netanyahu, himself a secular, U.S.-educated millionaire with a propensity for cognac and cigars, has nonetheless aligned himself with downtrodden Jewish Israelis with whom he would seem to have little in common. Portraying himself as a victim of the country's "elites," Netanyahu is seen as their hero.

"Netanyahu is the best prime minister the state of Israel has ever had, and we will continue to support him," said Alon Davidi, mayor of the southern town of Sderot.

Just two weeks ago, Davidi's town was dealing with around-the-clock air raid sirens as Palestinian militants in the neighboring Gaza Strip were bombarding southern Israeli communities with rocket fire.

AP's Joe Federman discusses Netanyahu's strategy of using the country's Arabs as an election issue.

It's a scene the residents of southern Israel have gotten used to since the Hamas militant group seized power in Gaza 12 years ago. It's also a constant source of frustration. Residents complained about Netanyahu's inability to stop the rockets and were furious over his latest behind-the-scenes cease-fire deal with Hamas.

But given a chance to change things in Tuesday's election, residents of Sderot voted overwhelmingly for Netanyahu's Likud party and its religious and nationalist allies.

"We are intelligent people," Davidi told the Army Radio station. "We are people who know how to appreciate everything that's done for us, and I think that Netanyahu and all the right-wing parties are doing what they can do and what they believe."

In Sderot, whose population is largely working class, religious and of Mizrahi, or Middle Eastern, descent, Netanyahu's Likud received 44% of the vote, compared with 9% for the rival Blue and White party, according to official election data. More than 80% of Sderot voted for Likud and its religions and nationalist allies.

Similar thinking took place across Israel. A look at the electoral map showed Likud and its allies sweeping the vote in smaller, outlying cities and towns, West Bank settlements and in Jerusalem, whose population is largely poor and religious.

Off The Wall

Yabba dabba don't: California town rejects Flintstones house

AP
This Monday, April 1, 2019 photo, shows an aerial view of the Flintstone House in Hillsborough, Calif.

HILLSBOROUGH, Calif. (AP)—Towering dinosaurs stand among fanciful mushrooms in the sloping backyard. A life-sized Fred Flintstone welcomes visitors near the front door. And by the driveway on the lawn is a giant "Yabba Dabba Do" sign in orange, purple and red.

The latest battle in the war between government rules and property rights is playing out in a posh San Francisco suburb, where a retired publishing mogul has installed an elaborate homage to "The Flintstones" family. The bold, bulbous house is surrounded by Stone Age sculptures inspired by the 1960s cartoon, along with aliens and other oddities.

The controversy has sparked international media coverage and an online petition signed by thousands to preserve the attention-grabbing property, visible from a nearby highway.

The 2,730-square-foot (254-square-meter) house itself is not at stake, but the town of Hillsborough says Florence Fang's multimillion-dollar property is a public nuisance and an eyesore.

Officials filed a lawsuit in state court last month to make her remove the unpermitted garden installations. Fang does not live in the house but uses it to entertain.

An attorney for the 84-year-old says snobby officials want to squelch Fang's constitutional right to enjoy her yard, and promises a vigorous fight.

"Mrs. Fang has made people smile, she's giving them joy. What's not to love about Dino, who acts like a dog?" said Angela Alioto, a former San Francisco supervisor. "What is wrong with these people?"

The oddly shaped house, currently painted red and purple, was designed by architect William Nicholson and built in 1976. Fang, a prominent philanthropist who once published the San Francisco Examiner, bought the property in June 2017 for $2.8 million.

The whimsical front yard has statues of Barney and Betty Rubble, along with Fred and Wilma. A sign reads "No Dino Allowed" and features a purple cartoon dinosaur. Colorful mushroom sculptures dot the front and back. A steep staircase, deemed unsafe by town officials, leads to a garden of giant metal prehistoric animals.

Police: Man buys $8 million island then steals from Kmart

KEY WEST, Fla. (AP)—A man who had just bought an $8 million island off of Key West was arrested Saturday for participating in what police described as a scheme to steal $300 in household items from Kmart.

Officials at Kmart called Key West police April 5 after they say Andrew Francis Lippi, 59, had purchased several items, including a Keurig coffeemaker and light bulbs, and returned the original boxes for a refund. But police say the boxes were stuffed with other items. For example, store officials said a basketball was inside the Keurig box.

The store's loss prevention officer provided detectives with video of Lippi buying and returning all of the items between March 30 and April 5, according to an arrest report.

The Miami Herald reports Lippi bought Thompson Island, which had been the home to the family of philanthropist Edward B. Knight. Lippi also owns the "Real World" house in Key West, where MTV shot its 17th season in 2006.

Lippi told detectives he did not change out any of the items before returning them. According to the arrest report, Lippi also told detectives the clerk should have known there was no coffee maker inside the box because of its weight. He also told officers he returned the light bulbs because they cost too much and he did not realize they'd been switched.

Lippi was charged with grand theft and booked into jail. He was also issued a trespass warning to stay away from Kmart. Jail records show he was released Sunday.

Lippi told the Herald the theft allegation is "complicated" and he'd rather not talk about it.

Mistrial declared for man who snapped $4.5M statue's thumb

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A jury was unable to reach a verdict in the trial of a Delaware man who admitted he broke a thumb off a $4.5 million statue at a Philadelphia museum.

Michael Rohana was attending a Christmas-themed ugly sweater party at the Franklin Institute in December 2017 when he entered a closed exhibit of ancient Chinese terra cotta warrior statues. Authorities said Rohana, 25, took photos while posing next to a statue known as "The Cavalryman," then removed the valuable relic's left thumb and made off with it. The incident was captured by surveillance cameras.

The vandalism outraged Chinese officials.

Though Rohana didn't deny he snapped off the digit and took it home, a jury deadlocked Tuesday on charges of theft and concealment of an object of cultural heritage, The Philadelphia Inquirer reported. Rohana's lawyers argued he wasn't charged under the right law.

"These charges were made for art thieves—think like 'Ocean's Eleven' or 'Mission: Impossible,'" federal public defender Catherine C. Henry said in closing arguments. Rohana "wasn't in ninja clothing sneaking around the museum. He was a drunk kid in a bright green ugly Christmas sweater."

Rohana, a shoe salesman who lives with his parents, told jurors it was a dumb mistake.

"I don't know why I broke it," he testified. "It didn't just happen, but there was never a thought of, 'I should break this.'" He added: "Every time I see this video now, I'm trying to figure out, 'What was going through your mind? What were you thinking?' I don't know how I could have been so stupid."

A mistrial was declared. Federal prosecutors said they'll decide by May whether to retry the case.

The thumb was returned to China. Franklin Institute officials told the jury it has not been reattached.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Police: Man wakes to stranger sleeping on his kitchen floor

ALTOONA, Pa. (AP)—Police say a Pennsylvania man awoke to find a stranger sleeping on his kitchen floor surrounded by torn-up sanitary napkins. Altoona police say they arrested 60-year-old Brian Smith Thursday. The Altoona Mirror reports Smith was unconscious and surrounded by destroyed sanitary napkins. The homeowner told police it also appeared someone had eaten some of his Krave cereal. He told police all his doors and windows were locked when he went to sleep, but he noticed one of the doors was wide open the next morning. Police say Smith told them he used methamphetamine within the last two days, and was unable to explain how or why he entered the house. He's been charged with burglary and trespass. There was no attorney listed for him in court documents. A preliminary hearing is scheduled for Wednesday.

Thieves return statue, leave flowers and a card

WEST CHESTER, Pa. (AP)—Two thieves who snatched a statue of a lion from outside a home in a Philadelphia suburb had a change of heart after police posted surveillance video of the heist. The statute was taken from the West Chester residence on Wednesday. But by Friday, police posted a video of the thieves returning it. They also left behind a bouquet of flowers and a card. Police say it was a "smart move to return the property" and the owner is grateful.

Panda romance in the air at Berlin zoo, but love takes time

BERLIN (AP)—Sometimes love takes its time, but the Berlin zoo is hoping that this is the year for panda romance. The zoo's two giant pandas, 8-year-old male Jiao Qing and 5-year-old female Meng Meng, arrived from China in June 2017. After nearly two years munching bamboo in neighboring enclosures, they were brought together for the first time Friday as keepers confirmed that Meng Meng is in heat—a phase that lasts for 72 hours per year at most. Their efforts weren't immediately rewarded. Zookeeper Norbert Zahmel said that Jiao Qing was afraid at first but then tentatively approached his prospective mate. He said that "they still need to practice a bit." The zoo says panda pregnancies on average last 155 days and produce one or two cubs.

Judge: Animal shelter to keep tiger seized from Houston home

HOUSTON (AP)—A judge has ruled that an animal shelter can keep a tiger that was rescued from an abandoned Houston home. The Cleveland Amory Black Beauty Ranch in Murchison has looked after the tiger since February, when some people entered the house to smoke marijuana and found the big cat . Authorities say the 350 pound (160 kilogram) tiger was improperly secured in a small cage, and was sitting on hay and its own waste. Houston police believe Brittany Garza is the tiger's owner and have filed a civil lawsuit accusing her of animal cruelty. She refuses to explain how she obtained the tiger. The Houston Chronicle reports that the judge ordered Garza to pay about $11,600 to cover the cost of the tiger's care. Garza's lawyer declined comment.

Deputies respond to home invasion, find robot vacuum cleaner

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Deputies in Portland, Oregon responded to a possible home invasion, but the intruder they found wasn't alive or a person. It was a robotic vacuum cleaner. The Oregonian/OregonLive reports a house sitter in Cedar Hills called 911 Monday, saying someone was inside the bathroom. The Washington County Sheriff's Office says deputies entered the home and ordered the burglar out, but nothing happened. Deputies then opened the bathroom door with guns drawn and discovered the automatic vacuum cleaner. Sgt. Danny DiPietro says this encounter was his first "Roomba burglar" in 13 years on the job. He says the office is still "having a good laugh about it."

Science & Technology

Science fact: Astronomers reveal first image of a black hole

By SETH BORENSTEIN
AP SCIENCE WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Humanity got its first glimpse Wednesday of the cosmic place of no return: a black hole.

And it's as hot, as violent and as beautiful as science fiction imagined.

In a breakthrough that thrilled the world of astrophysics and stirred talk of a Nobel Prize, scientists released the first image ever made of a black hole, revealing a fiery doughnut-shaped object in a galaxy 53 million light-years from Earth.

"Science fiction has become science fact," University of Waterloo theoretical physicist Avery Broderick, one of the leaders of the research team of about 200 scientists from 20 countries, declared as the colorized orange-and-black picture was unveiled.

The image, assembled from data gathered by eight radio telescopes around the world, shows light and gas swirling around the lip of a supermassive black hole, a monster of the universe whose existence was theorized by Einstein more than a century ago but confirmed only indirectly over the decades.

Supermassive black holes are situated at the center of most galaxies, including ours, and are so dense that nothing, not even light, can escape their gravitational pull. Light gets bent and twisted around by gravity in a bizarre funhouse effect as it gets sucked into the abyss along with superheated gas and dust.

The new image confirmed yet another piece of Einstein's general theory of relativity. Einstein even predicted the object's neatly symmetrical shape.

"We have seen what we thought was unseeable. We have seen and taken a picture of a black hole," announced Sheperd Doeleman of Harvard, leader of the project.

Jessica Dempsey, another co-discoverer and deputy director of the East Asian Observatory in Hawaii, said the fiery circle reminded her of the flaming Eye of Sauron from the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy.

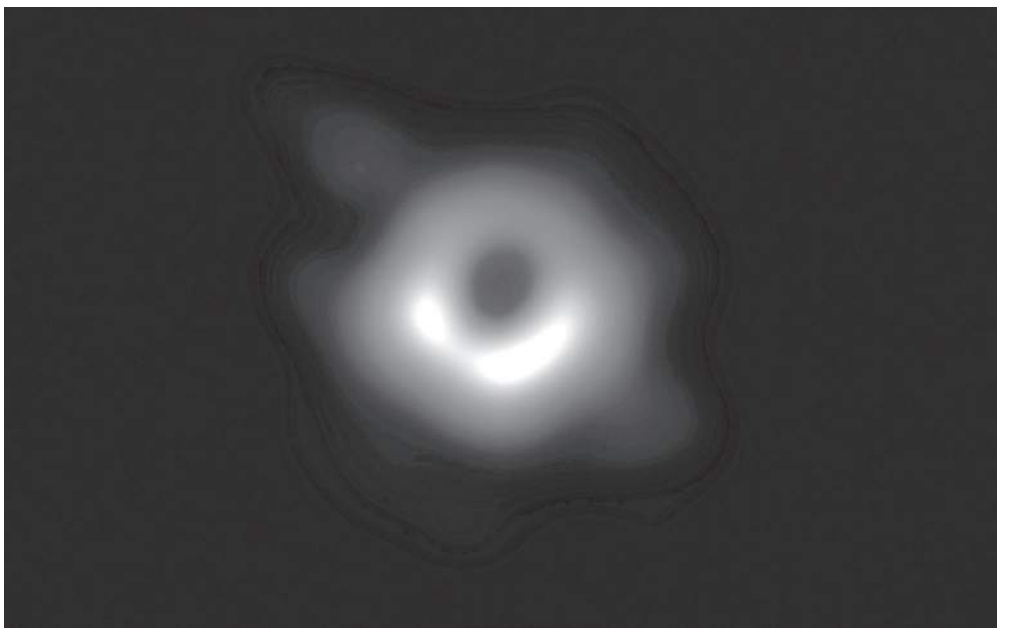
Three years ago, scientists using an extraordinarily sensitive observing system heard the sound of two much smaller black holes merging to create a gravitational wave, as Einstein predicted. The new image, published in the Astrophysical Journal Letters and announced around the world, adds light to that sound.

Outside scientists suggested the achievement could be worthy of a Nobel, just like the gravitational wave discovery.

"I think it looks very convincing," said Andrea Ghez, director of the UCLA Galactic Center Group, who wasn't part of the discovery team.

The picture was made with equipment that detects wavelengths invisible to the human eye, so astronomers added color to convey the ferocious heat of the gas and dust, glowing at a temperature of perhaps millions of degrees. But if a person were to somehow get close to this black hole, it might not look quite like that, astronomers said.

The black hole is about 6 billion times the mass of our sun and is in a galaxy called M87. Its "event horizon"—the precipice, or point of no return where light and matter get sucked inexorably into the hole—is as big as our entire solar system.



AP

This image released Wednesday, April 10, 2019, by Event Horizon Telescope shows a black hole.

Black holes are the "most extreme environment in the known universe," Broderick said, a violent, churning place of "gravity run amok." Unlike smaller black holes, which come from collapsed stars, supermassive black holes are mysterious in origin.

Despite decades of study, there are a few holdouts who deny black holes exist, and this work shows that they do, said Boston University astronomer professor Alan Marscher, a co-discoverer.

The project cost $50 million to $60 million, with $28 million of that coming from the National Science Foundation. The same team has gathered even more data on a black hole in the center of our own Milky Way galaxy, but scientists said the object is so jumpy they don't have a good picture yet.

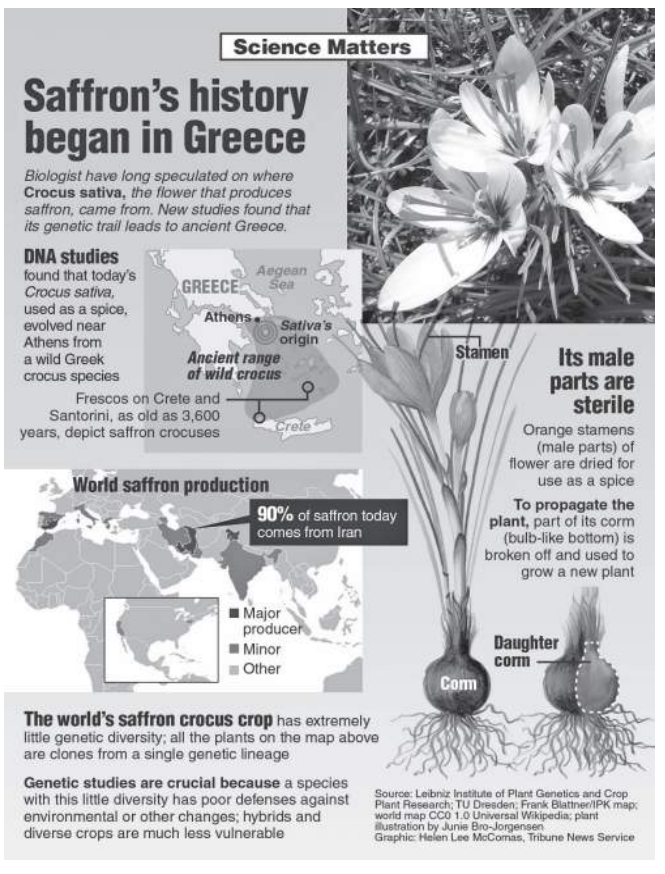
Myth says a black hole would rip a person apart, but scientists said that because of the particular forces exerted by an object as big as the one in M87, someone could fall into it and not be torn to pieces. But the person would never be heard from or seen again.

Black holes are "like the walls of a prison. Once you cross it, you will never be able to get out and you will never be able to communicate," said astronomer Avi Loeb, who is director of the Black Hole Initiative at Harvard but was not involved in the discovery.

The telescope data was gathered two years ago, over four days when the weather had to be just right all around the world. Completing the image was an enormous undertaking, involving an international team of scientists, supercomputers and hundreds of terabytes of data.

When scientists initially put all that data into the first picture, what they saw looked so much like what they expected they didn't believe it at first.

"We've been hunting this for a long time," Dempsey said. "We've been getting closer and closer with better technology."


Science Matters
Saffron's history began in Greece
Biologist have long speculated on where Crocus sativa, the flower that produces saffron, came from. New studies found that its genetic trail leads to ancient Greece.
DNA studies found that today's Crocus sativa, used as a spice, evolved near Athens from a wild Greek crocus species
GREECE
Aegean Sea
Athens
Sativa's origin
Ancient range of wild crocus
Crete
Frescos on Crete and Santorini, as old as 3,600 years, depict saffron crocuses
Stamen
Its male parts are sterile
Orange stamens (male parts) of flower are dried for use as a spice
To propagate the plant, part of its corm (bulb-like bottom) is broken off and used to grow a new plant
World saffron production
90% of saffron today comes from Iran
Major producer
Minor
Other
Daughter corm
Corm
The world's saffron crocus crop has extremely little genetic diversity; all the plants on the map above are clones from a single genetic lineage
Genetic studies are crucial because a species with this little diversity has poor defenses against environmental or other changes; hybrids and diverse crops are much less vulnerable
Source: Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research; TU Dresden; Frank Blattner/IPK map; world map CC0 1.0 Universal Wikipedia; plant illustration by Junie Bro-Jorgensen
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

Seeing is believing: 4 lessons of the new black hole image

By SETH BORENSTEIN
AP SCIENCE WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP)—Black holes are cosmic prisons, where nothing escapes, not light or even data. But lots did come out of Wednesday's first image of the shadowy edge of a supermassive black hole. Here are four things we learned:

SEEING IS BELIEVING

Scientists have known for decades that black holes exist, but only indirectly. Three years ago, they essentially heard the sound of two smaller black holes crashing together to form a gravitational wave. The image revealed Wednesday showed the edges of the black hole—called the "event horizon"—for the first time.

There actually were a few academic holdouts who denied black holes existed, but now they can't, said Boston University astronomer Alan Marscher, who was on one of four imaging teams.

The new image shows a glowing ring that was obviously a black hole and its surroundings, said Harvard's Sheperd Doeleman, director of the Event Horizon Telescope team.

"We saw something so true," Doeleman said. "We saw something that really had a ring to it if you can use that phrase."

He said the team "uncovered part of the universe that was off-limits to us."

EINSTEIN IS RIGHT AGAIN

Each major astrophysics discovery of the last few decades tends to confirm Albert Einstein's general theory of relativity. It's a comprehensive explanation of gravity that the former patent clerk thought of in 1915 before computers and with much weaker telescopes.

On Wednesday, Einstein's predictions about the shape and glow of a big black hole proved right, and astronomer after astronomer paid homage to the master.

"Today general relativity passed another crucial test," said University of Waterloo astronomer Avery Broderick, a co-discoverer. "The Einstein equations are beautiful. So often in my experience, nature wants to be beautiful"."

It sounds strange to keep saying Einstein is right, but every time his general relativity theory is confirmed, "we kill a cloud of alternative theories" and gain better understanding how to create an even more comprehensive theory of physics, said Ethan Vishniac of Johns Hopkins University. He wasn't part of the discovery team.

GRAVITY IS POWERFUL

The black hole that scientists took a picture of is in the center of a galaxy called M87 and it is far bigger than anything in the Milky Way. Its mass—the chief measurement of a black hole—is 6.5 billion times as much as our sun's. The event horizon stretches about the breadth of our solar system.

"M87's huge black hole mass makes it really a monster even by supermassive black hole standards," said Sera Markoff, a discovery team member at the University of Amsterdam.

Some black holes are inactive, but not this one, she said. And that means it converts nearby gas and matter into energy with 100 times more efficiency than the nuclear fusion that powers the stars.

Black holes like these "temporarily become the most powerful engines in the universe," Markoff said.

WORKING TOGETHER WORKS

The project succeeded because of international cooperation among 20 countries and about 200 scientists at a cost of $50 million to $60 million, according to the National Science Foundation.

To get an image of a faraway black hole, scientists had to get eight radio telescopes on several continents, including Antarctica, to look at the same place at the same time. In getting the instruments connected, they essentially created one Earth-size connected telescope.

The amount of data generated was so massive that it could not be transmitted over the internet, so it was flown to data centers by jet.

The data collected was equivalent to a lifetime collection of selfies from 40,000 people, said discovery team member Daniel Marrone of the University of Arizona.

And just to start to take pictures the weather had to be good at all eight telescopes on the same days in April 2017. The scientists had only 10 days to look and got four perfect weather days, three of them at the start.

It then took more than a year for that data to be processed into the first glimpse of images that scientists saw in the summer of 2018.

Those images were so good that scientists at first worried that it was just too good to be true, Boston University's Marscher said.

Life & Style

Fire, ice and puberty: How 'Thrones' characters have grown

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Living in Westeros can really change a person. Those who survived the first seven seasons of "Game of Thrones" have seen their parents, children and even pets stabbed, disemboweled and beheaded. They've been burned and frozen. They've lost essential body parts. Some have been through death and back, others suffered the horrors of puberty. Occasionally, they've been allowed some triumph. Here's a look at the twisted journeys of some of the characters who've managed to make it from 2011's season one to Sunday's premiere of season eight of the HBO series.

ARYA STARK

From little princess to ruthless assassin, few have had a more transforming trip through the seven seasons of "Game of Thrones" than Arya. Played by Maisie Williams, Arya was a girl of about 11 forced to do needlepoint and other acceptably girlish things while dreaming of swords, war and adventure. Be careful what you wish for in Westeros. She saw her father beheaded in season one, had her brother and mother slaughtered at the Red Wedding in season three and was kidnapped and led through endless, grueling wandering. All of it left her hardened and hungry for vengeance, with a kill list of names she recites like a prayer before bedtime. In season five she went through dignity-draining assassin training that required her to take beatings, go blind for months and beg in the streets for subsistence. Eventually, she began living her dream of offing her family's enemies—baking two of them in a pie—and is getting such a taste for blood that as season eight starts it's hard to know whether she'll ever stop.

SANSA STARK

While Arya embraced death and struggle, her big sister Sansa—played by Sophie Turner, who has become a star in the "X-Men" film franchise—only wanted the life of tea and tiaras she had as a young teen when the show began. Her initial innocence and optimism and subsequent persistence through humiliations and violations have made her the show's great emotional survivor. She was delighted to be betrothed to the king's son Prince Joffrey in season one, only to learn he was a vile monster. Her beloved pet dire wolf Lady was executed. She was forced into marriages with Tyrion Lannister then Ramsay Bolton, the most sadistic soul on a show full of them. Ramsay raped her on her wedding night in a season five scene that was too much even for many devoted viewers. As season eight begins she's finally in a position of power, in charge of her reclaimed family home of Winterfell. She has matured darker but still with her moral sense intact, and unlike many of the show's characters, has actually gained wisdom through her struggle.

JON SNOW

"You know nothing, Jon Snow," was a frequent refrain that became a social media meme early in the series. It's spoken by the Wildling woman Ygritte, who takes Jon's virginity and leaves him with some worldly wisdom. (Kit Harington, who plays Snow, and Rose Leslie, who plays Ygritte, later married in real life.) Jon Snow knows a lot more now, and is about to learn a world-shaking truth about his origins as season eight begins. A bastard brought into the noble northern Stark family and raised by a regal woman who refused to love him, he was sent to serve at the great wall that guards the north, along with delinquents and other throwaway children. He would quickly rise to become their commander, and reached out to rival clans to fight the plague of the White Walkers, a growing horde of icy undead. Killed in a mutiny at the end of season five, he was later brought back to life by a priestess. The lords of the region join to declare him the King in the North, but he leaves to seek allies in the growing White Walker war. He found such a partner, and lover, and more in Daenerys Targaryen, who brings her dragons and armies to the fight.

DAENERYS TARGARYEN

Viewers can tell how far Daenerys has come by the sheer number of names and titles she's amassed: Daenerys Stormborn, Khaleesi, Mhysa, Mother of Dragons, The Unburnt, The Queen Across the Sea, The Princess That Was Promised, and just plain Dany to friends and fans. When the show began she was treated as a piece of currency, a princess-in-exile married off to a barbarian by her calculating brother. Now she is either worshipped, feared or revered by nearly every soul in her world. She brought dragons back from extinction, conquered kingdoms, freed thousands of slaves, and is on the verge of restoring her family's dynasty over the Seven Kingdoms of Westeros, but first must fight alongside Jon Snow, and explore their possibly shared destiny. Emilia Clarke, who plays Daenerys, has had some real-life baptisms-by-fire since the show began, suffering two aneurysms and undergoing two brain surgeries.

BRAN STARK

Bran began the show as a boy barely big enough to use a bow and arrow and is now a seer known as the Three-eyed Raven, who contains the wisdom of millennia, and a secret about Jon Snow that will redefine his family and possibly all of Westeros. His appearance underwent a change nearly as dramatic. Actor Isaac Hempstead Wright, now 19, was 11 when he shot the first season, and had a pubescent growth spurt that rendered him virtually unrecognizable within a few seasons.

JAIME LANNISTER

Leave it to "Game of Thrones," to take an incestuous, amoral, love-to-loathe-him villain and try to make him genuinely sympathetic. He begins as a legendary fighter known as the "Kingslayer," royal guard of his twin sister Queen Cersei and the secret father of her three children. During a stint as a prisoner he has his right hand cut off, and becomes a warrior unable to use a sword. His humanity, and even hints of kindness, have slowly emerged in the years since, and as season eight begins he has defied his sister to join their enemy Jon Snow in the fight against the White Walkers.

CERSEI LANNISTER

Cersei was queen when season one began, and is queen as season eight begins. She's barely left the castle in King's Landing during the show's run, but for a naked walk of shame through the streets that became one of the show's most memorable—and most memed—moments. Most of her trials have been internal. All three of her children have died. Her famous long-blond locks are now gone in favor of a cropped cut that evokes maturity. She has refused to change her view of the world however, staying steadfast in the ruthlessness that for most of the series has kept the throne in her control. As season eight starts she's refused to commit her troops to the fight in the north, hoping all her potential rivals will destroy themselves while she waits it out.

TYRION LANNISTER

Tyrion Lannister, played by Peter Dinklage, has in many ways been the face of the show since Sean Bean's Ned Stark lost his face—along with the rest of head, in season one. At first he was a wisecracking alcoholic who spent most of his time in brothels. Now, he's a wisecracking alcoholic who advises Daenerys Targaryen, would-be queen of the realm. Through constant humiliations and rejections, Tyrion remained loyal to a family that despised him until he couldn't bear it anymore, killing his father, fleeing into exile and finding new life with Daenerys, the biggest threat to the clan he's renounced.

THEON GREYJOY

The show's other wisecracking prostitute-frequenting rogue when the show began, he has been brutally humiliated and humbled since. After a murderous failed attempt to conquer Winterfell, where he was raised among the Starks, Theon is held prisoner by Ramsay Bolton, who cuts off his private parts, peels off his fingernails, knocks out his teeth and dubs him "Reek," turning him into a sad shadow of a human. He's a survivor who in recent seasons has regained his will to fight.

SAMWELL TARLY

Sam was a soft, sad, overweight reject from a family of warriors in season one, and he remains all of those things as season eight begins. Sent to the wall to be forged into a real medieval man, he instead finds his calling through his pure heart and studious mind, becoming an essential adviser who helped Jon Snow's rise and has found ancient knowledge to fend off the White Walkers.

Favorite 'Game of Thrones' death scene? Its stars weigh in

NEW YORK (AP)—"Game of Thrones" has shocked and pleased viewers with the way they have killed off its characters—from the jaw-dropping "Red Wedding" episode to the explosive green wildfire that eliminated most of the cast, which then led to the epic way Tommen Baratheon essentially said, "You know what everyone, I'm over this," and took a dive from a high window, killing himself.

Some of the show's top stars, including Sophie Turner (Sansa Stark), Maisie Williams (Arya Stark) and Kristian Nairn (Hodor) talk about their favorite death scenes in interviews with The Associated Press. "Game of Thrones" premieres its eighth and final season Sunday on HBO.

This image released by HBO shows Jack Gleeson portraying Joffrey Baratheon in a scene from "Game of Thrones." The final season premieres on Sunday. AP

OH NO HE DIDN'T

Defending Tyrion Lannister, Oberyn Martell battles the giant known as Ser Gregor Clegane and nearly kills him, but Martell (Pedro Pascal) proved to be too cocky and celebrated too early. Clegane then crushed Martell's skull and the scene became one of the show's most memorable. It was so popular that Pascal said when he meets fans, they will imitate how Clegane gouged his character's eyes before his head exploded.

■ Turner: "The skull crushing—that was pretty spectacular."

■ Williams: "When Oberyn Martell got his head squished .... loved that scene. So sad, though, because I miss Pedro."

■ Isaac Hempstead Wright (Bran Stark): "It was so, so shocking. Not only in terms of the brutality of it, but because I didn't see it coming. I hadn't read the script for the episode. It was one of those classic 'Game of Thrones' where you think the underdog's winning. Oh, no, no, no. He's (got) his head squished."

■ Eugene Simon (Lancel Lannister): "Just as things are about to turn around, you're suddenly blown to pieces and you're a goner. It's just unbelievable. I could not believe it. I was utterly shocked. It happened so quickly as well. His skull just gets crushed and he's done."

NED'S HEAD, NED'S DEAD

"Game of Thrones" proved no character was safe from being killed off when Ned Stark, played by Sean Bean, died in season one when his head was chopped off, orchestrated by Joffrey Baratheon.

■ Turner: "Sean's was amazing because it was just so shocking—because no one knew that they were going to kill off main characters."

■ Conleth Hill (Varys): "Even while we were filming I kept thinking, 'Oh someone will save him.'"

TOILET TORTURE

One of the most uncomfortable ways to die? On the toilet. Hit with three arrows. By your own son. That's what happened to Tywin Lannister (Charles Dance) when Tyrion Lannister went full blown savage on his dad.

Gwendoline Christie (Brienne of Tarth): "Charles Dance on the toilet—thank you."

HOLD THE DOOR

Hodor became a fan favorite on "Thrones," and his death was touching and memorable: As Hodor, played by Nairn, tries to keep holding the door to give Meera time to escape with Bran Stark, who is unconscious, he sacrifices his life as the White Walkers' minions tear him apart.

Nairn: "I definitely cried the first time I watched it. It's very different watching it back than it is doing it at the time. Yeah, I still get teary when I watch it sometimes. ...I watched a lot of people's reactions to Hodor dying. That actually moved me."

Hill: "I never saw that coming either. I was like, 'What?'"

Kerry Ingram (Shireen Baratheon): "The one that hit me the most is probably Hodor's death. ...When that happened I was just so shocked because I didn't know what was going to happen. ...The acting, the way that it was presented was just incredible. It's just such an amazing piece of television. It's heartbreaking, but amazing."

WHO LET THE DOGS OUT? WOOF, WOOF

Ramsey Bolton, played by Iwan Rheon, had his fun when he brutally tortured Theon Greyjoy and Sansa Stark, and killed his own father and pregnant stepmother. So it was only appropriate that the favor was returned when Ramsay's drooling dog—who hadn't eaten for some time—was let loose on his master, and had his way with him.

Pilou Asbaek (Euron Greyjoy): "I like the way Ramsay died. He got eaten by his own dogs. That's a very Scandinavian death. I like that ... because it's brutal. And it's poetic."

POISON IVY

When you're Olenna Tyrell and you don't approve of your granddaughter's husband, you'll poison him on their wedding day. That's what happened to former king Joffrey Baratheon, who died in front of family, friends and foes after drinking poison.

Iain Glen (Ser Jorah Mormont): "Those eyes, you know, the strangulation, the going red ... I thought it was just a brilliantly acted death and it was a surprise, like all good 'Thrones' deaths are; just the way it manifested itself. It had captured everything that's great about 'Thrones' I think."

YOU'RE FIRED

Princess Shireen Baratheon's death scene—she was burned alive as a sacrifice to R'hllor, known as the Lord of Light—was a hard one to watch. Her parents OK'd the death, though her mother later regretted it and tried in vain to save her daughter.

Liam Cunningham (Davos Seaworth): "My little girl Shireen. That was heartbreaking. I cried when I read that in my little room at home, when I had the pages open. ... I hoped it was a joke. A horrible thing to happen but incredibly dramatic as regards to storytelling."

Oprah Winfrey keynotes annual Women in the World summit

NEW YORK (AP)—Oprah Winfrey says it's time for women in the world to set the agenda.

The philanthropist and former talk show host made the remarks during her keynote speech Wednesday night at the 10th annual Women in the World summit in New York City's Lincoln Center.

The annual event features speeches and panel discussions that address the central question, "Can Women Save the World?" Winfrey's response is that women have been doing exactly that for so many years.

She says women should continue to "rock the boat" and redefine the message that's positive, ambitious, inclusive and "brimming with hope." The summit runs through April 12.

Also on Wednesday, it was announced that Oprah and Britain's Prince Harry are creating a documentary series on mental health for Apple's new streaming service.

Drunk friend spills the beans on cause of parents' separation

DEAR ABBY: My parents were separated for four years while I was in high school and college. It was an incredibly difficult time, and it strained my relationship with my dad. I was told they had "grown apart" but got back together, although we never discuss the reason for it.

I was out with my sister's friends last night, and one of them got drunk and told me the reason my parents split up was Dad had been seeing another woman and accidentally texted my sister instead of this other woman, and everyone in my family knew about it!

Dad and I barely saw each other or spoke about the separation, and we are finally in a good place. I'm hurt that he intentionally did something that broke up my family. It wasn't something that just happened because they drifted apart.

I don't want to ask my sister and bring up painful memories for her. My parents have never talked about their separation since they got back together. What should I do?

MIXED-UP DAUGHTER IN WISCONSIN

DEAR DAUGHTER: When infidelity happens there is usually a reason, and those reasons can vary from couple to couple. It's possible that your parents, who understandably don't want to relive that painful chapter, were having problems before the affair began. What is important now is that your family is back together.

My advice is to allow them their privacy. However, if you feel you cannot do that, then tell them TOGETHER what your sister's friend told you.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I was wondering what the rule of etiquette is when it comes to unwanted children's gifts. It's one thing if my husband and I receive gifts we don't want and get rid of them, but I'm not sure what to do with gifts for our kids.

We live in a small apartment and sometimes get large-ticket items we don't have room for. We've asked our family to keep the items small, but some of them ignore our request. A few times we've sold the items and put the money into our child's bank account. But we aren't sure that is the best way.

Also, what do we do when family sends our children stuff we don't want them to have? Some may be inappropriate, broken or junk. My in-laws have little to no interaction with our kids, and this is the only way they've chosen to make their presence known. We are reluctant to discard the only attention our kids get from their grandparents. What is the right thing to do?

NO MORE GIFTS IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR NO MORE GIFTS: Because you have made your wishes known to the grandparents and they are ignored, you and your children should thank them for their gifts—and you should continue repurposing items that are too large for your dwelling or unusable. Do not feel guilty for doing so because someone else may be better able to put them to use.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I recently played both sides during a sticky and challenging time. Now I have a friend who is really upset with me, and I don't know what to do. I thought I was doing the right thing, but in my effort to not hurt my friend, I have done more damage. I'm not sure this can be repaired. What should I do?

MESSED UP IN MINNEAPOLIS

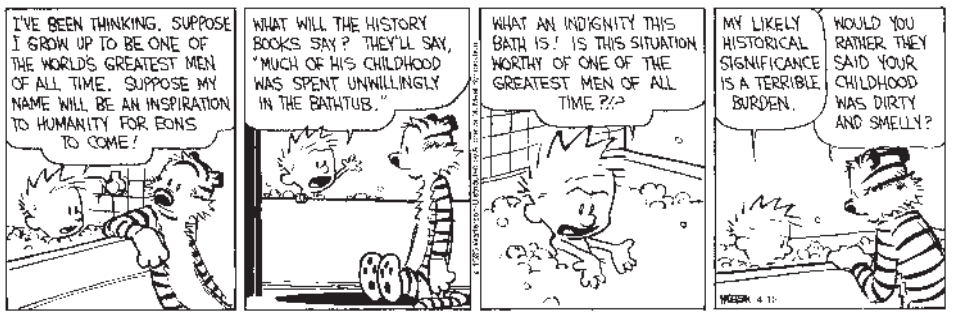
DEAR MESSED UP: Apologize to your friend. And if the friendship cannot be repaired, LEARN from it.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I'VE BEEN THINKING. SUPPOSE I GROW UP TO BE ONE OF THE WORLDS GREATEST MEN OF ALL TIME. SUPPOSE MY NAME WILL BE AN INSPIRATION TO HUMANITY FOR EONS TO COME!
WHAT WILL THE HISTORY BOOKS SAY? THEY'LL SAY, "MUCH OF HIS CHILDHOOD WAS SPENT UNWILLINGLY IN THE BATHTUB."
WHAT AN INDIGNITY THIS BATH IS! IS THIS SITUATION WORTHY OF ONE OF THE GREATEST MEN OF ALL TIME?!?
MY LIKELY HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE IS A TERRIBLE BURDEN.
WOULD YOU RATHER THEY SAID YOUR CHILDHOOD WAS DIRTY AND SMELLY?

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO AN AGENT, YOUR APPROXIMATE WAIT TIME...
...IS EQUAL TO THE AMOUNT OF TIME IT WOULD TAKE YOU TO READ YOUR MANUAL AND FIGURE IT OUT FOR YOURSELF.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Beach accessory
6 Altar promise
9 Wd. modifier
12 Blazing
13 At once
14 Singer Rawls
15 Light-weight wood
16 Old Pontiac
18 More tightly packed
20 "Star Wars" royal
21 Photo, for short
23 "Fresh Air" airer
24 Party beverage
25 Unforeseen problem
27 Say
29 Elk's horn
31 Wheel cover
35 Playful sea critter
37 Only
38 Barber's tools
41 Aug. and Sept.
43 Knock
44 Region
45 Halloween sprite
47 Young shopping center regular
49 Milk dispenser
52 Paris summer
53 Flamenco cheer
54 Cat calls?
55 Shelter
56 Slugger Williams
57 Actress Debra

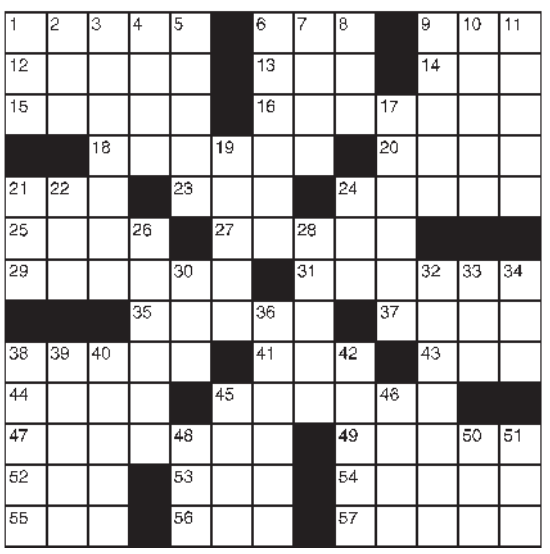
DOWN

1 Bar bill
2 One — kind
3 Villanova athlete
4 Gaelic
5 "Blue" singer Rimes
6 Loose newspaper ad
7 Gloomy
8 Have
9 Sci-fi visitor
10 Column style
11 A son of Jacob
17 Book jacket promos
19 Sudden gush
21 Unpaid TV ad
22 Hostel
24 Little, in Lille
26 World-wide
28 Pulsate
30 UFO crew
32 Deep-fried frank
33 Pie — mode
34 Zing
36 Acted badly?
38 Caravan beast
39 Emulate Lincoln
40 Donnybrook
42 Batter's dry spell
45 Big wind
46 Notion
48 Decay
50 Ram's ma'am
51 Trio after Q

Solution time: 25 mins.

M	A	R	S	■	F	O	P	■	S	P	O	T
E	R	A	T	■	O	N	O	■	H	E	R	R
A	■	M	A	■	R	E	O	■	I	D	E	A
T	O	P	D	O	G	■	L	O	N	E	L	Y
■	■	■	I	K	E	■	■	C	T	S	■	■
I	A	■	A	■	I	E	E	I	O	I	A	L
L	M	A	■	■	I	N	N	■	■	A	L	A
T	A	L	E	N	T	E	D	■	A	L	E	X
■	■	■	I	D	O	■	■	E	E	L	■	■
I	N	S	I	S	I	■	A	R	L	E	N	I
W	O	M	B	■	R	E	V	■	O	R	E	O
O	R	A	L	■	I	M	O	■	U	S	S	R
N	I	N	E	■	O	U	R	■	S	E	T	A

Yesterday's answer 4-12



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Saoirse Ronan, 25; Claire Danes, 40; Jennifer Morrison, 40; Ed O'Neill, 73.

Happy Birthday: Rethink your prerogative regarding work and domestic changes. If you work as a team player, you will find it easier to get what you want in the end. Have a goal in mind, and contribute your thoughts regarding the best way to get things done. A different lifestyle may be exactly what you need to dump bad habits and unnecessary possessions. Your numbers are 2, 14, 20, 28, 33, 36, 41.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Make financial changes. Cut your overhead and rid yourself of the clutter you've accumulated over the years. Once you start to clear out what you no longer need, you'll have more time and money to do the things you enjoy most. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Visit a friend or attend a reunion. You'll be offered valuable information that can help you better understand yourself and the possibilities that are available to you. Positive change is within reach if you are prepared to initiate your next move. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Think twice before you offer to help someone. Consider the likelihood of what you do actually making a difference and whether your time would be better spent focusing on learning and implementing what you discover to help you advance. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Negotiate on your own behalf. No one will understand what you want or fight harder to get it. Make a move based on the way you feel and the direction you see yourself heading. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Socialize with colleagues or someone who can help you raise your profile or position. Be ready to initiate positive change into the way you do things; it won't go unnoticed. Don't trust anyone who is competing with you. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Playtime will do you good. Put work behind you, and get together with people you find entertaining and motivating. A change of attitude will lead to an interesting alternative to your normal routine. Try something new. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Take a closer look at the demands someone is putting on you. It's time for you to make a change that will place you in a less stressful environment. Emotional tactics will be used as a means to manipulate you. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Making travel plans, socializing and sharing creative ideas with someone you love will lead to positive changes to your lifestyle. Personal improvements should be a priority, along with sticking to a budget. Love and romance will enhance your life. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Put your heart and soul into self-improvement. Don't worry about what others do or say. Stick to the truth, facts and the people you know you can trust. Someone will lead you astray or take advantage of you if you are gullible. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Make whatever you do or say count. Connect with someone you have enjoyed spending time with in the past. What you discover will help you initiate a positive change to the way you live or where. A romantic gesture looks promising. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Be careful who you share your secrets with. Emotional matters should be handled with care. Take a look at your personal papers before you submit documents to your accountant, government agency or legal representative. Make physical changes at home. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* What you put out you will get back. Give-and-take will result in better relationships with the people you live or work alongside. Much can be accomplished as long as you make realistic plans. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are creative, industrious and unique. You are sensitive and insightful.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

3					9			6
	5	9		7			4	
				6			7	
2				4				
	6	7				8	2	
				3				9
	4			8				
	8			1		5	9	
5			7					8

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 4/12

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

1	8	5	9	3	7	6	2	4
7	9	6	2	4	1	8	5	3
4	2	3	6	8	5	9	1	7
5	1	8	7	6	4	2	3	9
9	6	4	3	5	2	1	7	8
2	3	7	1	9	8	5	4	6
6	4	9	5	2	3	7	8	1
3	5	1	8	7	9	4	6	2
8	7	2	4	1	6	3	9	5

Difficulty Level ★★★

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

MOVIE STUNTS — Solution: 11 letters

S	S	T	H	G	I	E	H	A	R	N	E	S	S	F
L	T	P	F	W	E	A	P	O	N	S	A	U	K	I
I	A	A	O	I	E	S	T	C	E	F	F	E	Y	G
N	L	C	C	R	L	D	A	M	E	N	I	C	S	H
L	R	L	I	T	T	M	I	T	G	F	C	A	C	T
A	A	A	U	T	I	I	Y	G	N	E	O	M	R	S
N	L	C	C	S	C	O	N	T	I	A	N	E	A	R
D	U	I	G	R	I	A	N	G	B	T	S	R	P	E
I	C	S	F	N	O	O	R	D	M	Ⓢ	A	A	E	V
N	I	Y	O	I	I	B	N	P	I	O	Ⓡ	L	R	U
G	H	H	S	A	R	C	A	S	L	N	V	Ⓐ	U	E
R	E	P	W	I	R	E	A	T	C	L	S	E	Ⓒ	N
E	V	I	S	U	A	L	B	R	I	L	I	A	S	A
E	L	B	I	S	S	O	P	M	I	C	F	K	N	M
N	E	E	R	C	S	E	L	A	I	C	E	P	S	E

© 2019 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com 4/12

Acrobatic, Action, Aerial, Camera, Cars, Cinema, Climbing, Crash, Digital, Effects, Face, Feat, Fights, Film, Fire, Green, Harness, Heights, Icons, Illusions, Impossible, Insane, Landing, Maneuvers, Moves, Physical, Practical, Racing, Safety, Screen, Skill, Skyscraper, Special, Sporting, Vehicular, Visual, Weapons, Wire

Yesterday's Answer: Iconic

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand. Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

CLASSIFIED ADS

EMPLOYMENT

Accountant: Bachelor's degree in Accounting (may be foreign educational equivalent). Knowledgeable in the application of generally accepted accounting principles and implements of general accounting including preparation of financial statements, accounts, payable, receivables, payroll, bank reconciliation, CNMI tax and federal tax. 60-months experience as Accountant. Send resume to: Tropex Garden Co., Ltd P.O. Box 502473, Saipan, MP 96950.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

SURROGATES

If you are female between the ages of 21 and 40, have had at least one natural child birth, and are interested in learning more about being a surrogate, please call Evelyn @ 287-7338. Compensation is $25,000 - $35,000. Can also receive $500 for referral of qualified candidate.

LOOKING FOR SURROGATES

American Couples and Non-American Couples are seeking your help to fulfill their dream to have a child. If you are female between the ages of 21 and 40, have had at least one natural child birth, and are interested in learning more about being a surrogate, please contact Evelyn @ 287-7338. Compensation is over $25,000 - $35,000. Can also receive $500 for referral of qualified candidate.

PACIFIC UNLIMITED INC
SYNERGY • COLLABORATION • SOLUTIONS

has immediate job openings for the following positions:

Heavy Equipment Operator
Water Truck Operator
Laborers

Individuals applying for operator positions must have prior experience and demonstrate proficiency in operating equipment prior to a formal job offer. Qualified candidates will be asked to demonstrate their proficiency operating excavators or dozers and water trucks. PUI will provide the equipment.

Laborers must be willing to work outdoors. Prior experience in construction a plus but not required. The only requirements is consistent attendance, ability to follow directions, and a good attitude.

PUI has both day and night shifts available. Individuals who currently have day jobs are encouraged to apply for night shifts.

Please send resumes to: jobs@pacificunlimitedguam.com or call Donny at (671) 898-2553.

Stanford Resort & Apartment
Room For Rent in San Vicente
- Available Single & 2-Bed Room
- Laundry Room, Help Desk, Parking Lot

Please Feel Free to contact us
Tel : 235-8500 / Phone : 588-2132

WHATZIT Solution: Bend the truth

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality
Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 501304, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp

Eli D. Cabrera, Administrator
Janice E. Castro, Director, DCRM

PUBLIC NOTICE

From the COMMONWEALTH OF THE NOTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM of the CNMI'S DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

DATE: April 12, 2019

NOTICE: The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Division of Coastal Resource Management (DCRM) is currently reviewing a federal consistency determination request from the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) regarding the proposed purchase and installation of transitional homes. The project, located in Koblerville, Saipan, will be funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Additional information about the project can be accessed via the DCRM website at

https://dcrm.gov.mp/wp-content/uploads/crm/04082019_NMHCltrtoCRM.pdf

Federal consistency is a provision of the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) that requires federal actions that affect the coastal zone to be consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the enforceable policies of a coastal state's federally approved coastal management plan.

Comments on whether the project is consistent with the enforceable policies of the CNMI's coastal management program can be submitted to the Division of Coastal Resource Management at FedCon@dcrm.gov.mp.

This public notice has been published for compliance with 15 CFR § 930.42. DCRM is soliciting public comments for fifteen (15) days, starting on April 12, 2019 and ending on April 27, 2019, in order to give the public sufficient opportunity to develop and provide comments on whether the proposed project is consistent with management program enforceable policies. We welcome your feedback and thank you for your consideration.

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE
Procurement & Property Management Office
P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel: (670) 234-5498 ext. 6824/23/22 • Fax: (670) 235-7601
E-mail: ppmo@marianas.edu • Website: www.marianas.edu

INVITATION FOR BIDS

NMC IFB 19-002

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF 5 NEW VEHICLES

Northern Marianas College is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the procurement and delivery of 5 New Vehicles (4 each Delivered to the NMC-CREES Main Office on Saipan and 1 each Delivered to NMC-CREES Station on Tinian).

Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. O, commencing Friday, March 15th between the hours of 9:00-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

Bidders located outside of the CNMI may request a copy of the IFB via email to Robert Suzuki (robert.suzuki@arianas.edu).

Bid Packages are due no later than 10:00 a.m., April 15, 2019, CNMI date and time at the Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. O, Saipan, MP 96950. You may request a copy of the NMC IFB 19-002 packet attention Mr. Robert Suzuki at email robert.suzuki@marianas.edu.

Paid for by 100% Federal Funds through the USDA-NIFA authorized under the Hatch Act, as amended August 11, 1955, award # 2018-31100 (Regular) / Smith Lever Act section 3b & 3c, award#2015-41100.

In accordance with Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, Local Preference is not available to local businesses for this procurement.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all bid offers for any reason and waive any defect in said bids, or cancel in part or its entirety this IFB, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College. All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC.

/s/ Robert Suzuki
Acting Procurement & Property Manager

/s/ Patricia Coleman
Interim Dean of CREES

RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a complete 5-day run of liner ads, for as low as $15 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS
- 3-Liner **$15**
- 5-Liner **$24**

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

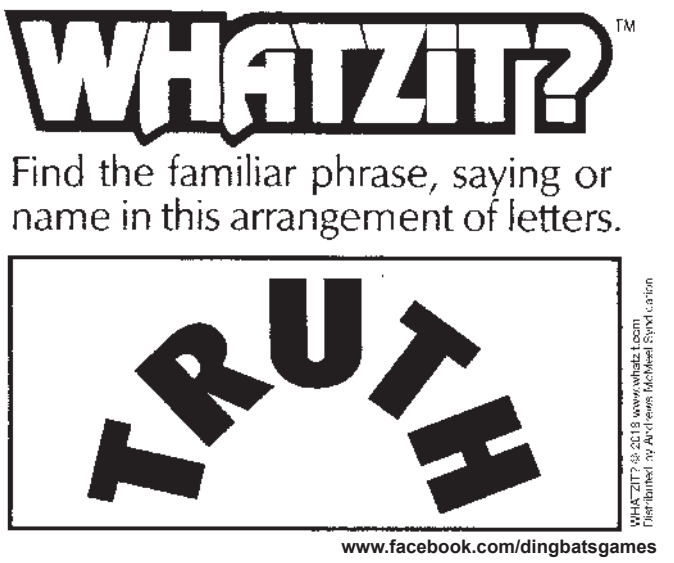
Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.


WHATZIT?™
Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.
TRUTH
WHATZIT? © 2018 www.whatzit.com
Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper for more news, value and information.
SUBSCRIBING MEANS MORE
Please call 235-NEWS

Astros complete first-ever sweep of Yankees

AP

Houston Astros' George Springer jumps back to second base after overshooting it on a steal during the eighth inning of the team's baseball game against the New York Yankees on Wednesday, April 10, 2019, in Houston.

HOUSTON (AP)—Jose Altuve hit two homers, Carlos Correa homered with three RBIs and the Houston Astros completed their first-ever sweep of the New York Yankees with an 8-6 win Wednesday night.

The Astros needed late-game comebacks to win the first two games of the series but used a four-run fifth inning to break the finale open and held on for their sixth straight win despite a big eighth inning by the Yankees.

It's the first time since 2004 the Astros have swept a homestand of at least two series. They beat the Athletics three times this weekend before the Yankees arrived.

Altuve, who has homered in three straight games, hit his first one off James Paxton (1-2) to tie it at 1 in the first inning after Brett Gardner hit a leadoff homer for New York.

The Astros were up by 1 with no outs in the fifth inning when Altuve connected off Paxton again. The towering shot clanged off the light pole atop the wall in left field to make it 4-2.

A single by Michael Brantley chased Paxton, who was replaced by Tommy Kahnle. He was greeted by a two-run home run by Correa that extended Houston's lead to 6-2. Houston made it 7-2 on an RBI single by Jake Marisnick with two outs in the inning.

Houston starter Collin McHugh (2-1) allowed four hits and two runs while striking out nine in six innings for his second straight win.

Padres 3, Giants 1

In San Francisco, Manny Machado put San Diego ahead with his third home run of the season in a win over San Francisco.

Signed to a $300 million, 10-year contract, Machado broke a 1-1 tie in the sixth inning with an opposite-field drive to right on a fastball from Dereck Rodríguez (1-2). Machado went 1 for 4 and is hitting .244 with six RBIs.

Wil Myers added a run-scoring single in the ninth off Will Smith, and the Padres won for the fifth time in seven games.

Cardinals 7, Dodgers 2

In St. Louis, Yadier Molina and Marcell Ozuna homered, Jack Flaherty tossed six effective innings and St. Louis beat Los Angeles.

The Cardinals have won four in a row and will try to sweep the four-game series Thursday. They have outscored their opponents 19-6 during the winning streak.

Max Muncy and Joc Pederson homered for the Dodgers, who have lost three straight after a five-game winning streak.

Rays 9, White Sox 1

In Chicago, Tommy Pham homered twice and extended his on-base streak to a club record 45 games, leading Tampa Bay to its first series sweep in Chicago.

Austin Meadows had a single, double, home run and three RBIs for the Rays, who outscored Chicago 24-7 over three games. Tampa Bay won its four straight game and the AL East-leading Rays improved to 10-3, their best start since 2010.

Chicago lost its fifth consecutive game and at 3-8 is off to its worst opening since 1997.

Reynaldo Lopez (0-2) fell behind 3-0 within 18 pitches.

Nationals 15, Phillies 1

In Philadelphia, Jeremy Hellickson pitched three-hit ball over six innings, Matt Adams drove in four runs and Washington routed Philadelphia.

One night after wasting a five-run lead in a 10-6 loss in 10 innings, the Phillies were flat. Bryce Harper was 0 for 2 with a walk against his former team, and an offense that was averaging 6.3 runs per game got shut down by four pitchers.

Hellickson (1-0) struck out six in his first start this season. He was Philadelphia's opening day starter in 2016-17.

Pirates 5, Cubs 2

In Chicago, Jordan Lyles struck out 10 in crisp six innings to tie a career high, Francisco Cervelli and Starling Marte homered off Yu Darvish, and Pittsburgh topped Chicago.

Lyles (1-0) allowed three hits and was sharp again in his second start, with Jason Heyward's solo shot in the fifth accounting for the lone run against him. The right-hander walked only one as Pittsburgh bounced back from a 10-0 drubbing in the Cubs' home opener Monday to win for the fifth time in six games.

Athletics 10, Orioles 3

In Baltimore, Oakland slugger Khris Davis homered twice and had three hits, Baltimore's Chris Davis extended his record hitless streak to 50 at-bats and the Athletics beat the Orioles.

Chad Pinder, Matt Chapman and Jurickson Profar also homered for Oakland, which can take the four-game series Thursday.

Chris Davis entered as a pinch-hitter in the ninth and flied out to center. He's 0 for 29 this season and hasn't gotten a hit since Sept. 14.

Mets 9, Twins 6

In New York, Jake Odorizzi and Minnesota's bullpen suddenly went wild, allowing seven straight batters to reach base despite not hitting a single fair ball and letting Noah Syndergaard and New York stroll past the Twins.

One day after the teams set a Citi Field record by totaling 10 home runs in the Twins' 14-8 romp, the Mets barely had to swing to build a big lead.

Tigers 4, Indians 1

In Detroit, Trevor Bauer allowed home runs to Niko Goodrum and John Hicks, who powered Detroit over Cleveland for the Tigers' sixth win in seven games.

Bauer (1-1) gave up four runs and 10 hits in 5 2/3 innings for the Indians. He had allowed one run and one hit in his first two starts.

Miguel Cabrera singled with two outs in the first, and Goodrum sent the next pitch over the right-field wall.

Reds 2, Marlins 1

In Cincinnati, Jose Iglesias led off the eighth inning with a tying homer — only Cincinnati's second hit of the game—and Jesse Winker connected one out later, rallying the Reds to a victory over Miami.

After dropping eight straight, the Reds (3-8) have taken the first two games against Miami by hitting seven homers. They hit five during a 14-0 victory Tuesday that ended the long slide.

The Reds managed only Matt Kemp's single through the first seven innings and were facing their fifth shutout of the season before pulling off the late rally. Iglesias hit his first homer of the season off Drew Steckenrider (0-2) to tie it, and Winker put the Reds up with his second homer in two games.

Packers have had a soap opera of an offseason

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—New Packers coach Matt LaFleur had a long to-do list even before his players arrived for the start of offseason workouts this week.

The drama that started in Green Bay with the December firing of coach Mike McCarthy has bubbled into the spring, with McCarthy ripping the front office for how it handled his dismissal, and star quarterback Aaron Rodgers defending himself after coming under fire over his performance and leadership.

Enveloped by controversies that predated his arrival in January, LaFleur faces the challenge of turning around a franchise that reached the playoffs eight consecutive seasons—including one Super Bowl victory and two more appearances in conference championship games—before having back-to-back losing seasons for the first time since the early 1990s.

It's going to take more than a fresh coat of paint down the hallway that leads from the locker room to the field and reassigned seats in the team meeting room to get the Packers back into championship contention.

"We had a standard here of going to the playoffs every single year," Rodgers said Wednesday. "We did that eight years in a row and we were competitive and in the mix, and then the last couple of years, obviously, have been frustrating to finish.

"I think we're in a good spot. I think there isn't a grace period. This isn't like other transitions where you maybe give a pass for the first year or two as you get acclimated to the system. We have a veteran quarterback, veteran offensive linemen, we signed some big free agents. There's an expectation living and playing here that you're going to compete for championships, and I think we all expect to do that."

Rodgers and LaFleur will be at the center of reaching those expectations. Rodgers, 35, played through a serious knee injury to start all 16 games last season, but endured one of his worst years of his career. LaFleur, 39, will be tasked with getting Rodgers back to his two-time MVP form and changing the culture of a team that had hit hard times during the final two seasons of McCarthy's 13-year tenure.

After running McCarthy's offense throughout his first 11 seasons as starting quarterback, Rodgers is getting his first taste of what LaFleur wants to do. At the scouting combine in February, LaFleur said offensive success required a "partnership" between himself and Rodgers.

"Matt's whole idea," said Rodgers' No. 1 target, receiver Davante Adams, "he's really open and receptive to how Aaron and I want to attack this season and how we feel moving forward, bringing certain things from the past that we liked, and just having an open mind, which is a great thing when you're coming in trying to get a team to buy in."

A new coach and new playbook aren't the only big changes. Two longtime stalwarts, receiver Randall Cobb and linebacker Clay Matthews, departed in free agency. Meanwhile, they added outside linebackers Za'Darius Smith and Preston Smith, safety Adrian Amos and offensive lineman Billy Turner in free agency. A pair of first-round picks will infuse more talent.

"Change, it can be really good if you embrace it," Rodgers said.

Echoing what LaFleur has said, Rodgers added the play caller/quarterback relationship will be critical to reversing the team's fortunes. Rodgers talked to one of LaFleur's former pupils, a Falcons quarterback Matt Ryan, to get a gauge on his new boss.

Impressed by what he heard, and with his injured knee healed, Rodgers was eager to get to Green Bay to start fostering that relationship and to shake off the sting of last season's 6-9-1 debacle.

Spieth hopeful Masters memories can help end slump

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP)—Tiger Woods is a winner again, making him even more appealing at the Masters.

"I've worked my way back into one of the players that can win events," he said.

Rory McIlroy is the betting favorite—perhaps even the sentimental favorite. Facing a fifth chance at completing the career Grand Slam at Augusta National, he has never started a year as well as this one. McIlroy won The Players Championship, played in the final group in three other events and has yet to finish out of the top 10 in his seven PGA Tour events.

"I'm happy with where everything is—body, mind, game," McIlroy said.

Such words sound as soothing to Jordan Spieth as birds nestled in the Georgia pines. Any other year, Spieth would be a big part of the conversation when the 83rd Masters Tournaments begins on Thursday.

"I don't feel like there's any added pressure this week," Spieth said. "I feel kind of under the radar, which is really nice."

Maybe not for long.

Not since Woods has any young golfer established himself as a master at Augusta National. In five appearances, starting with then 20-year-old Spieth's runner-up finish in his Masters debut, he has a green jacket, a share of the tournament scoring record, two silver medals for second place and a near historic closing round last year until he clipped a tree with his tee shot on the 18th hole, made bogey and had to settle for a 64.

His worst finish was a tie for 11th in 2017, and even then, he started the final round just two shots behind. No wonder he calls the Masters "my favorite tournament in the whole world."

That's what makes this year so intriguing for Spieth.

The next big thing in golf when he won the British Open two years ago for the third leg of the Grand Slam, the 25-year-old Texan is now in one big slump.

He hasn't won since. He hasn't finished in the top 10 in his last 15 tournaments, and even more jarring is that he has finished an average of just over 14 shots behind the winner, except for the three times he missed the cut.

Jordan Spieth hits from the bunker to the second green during his practice round for the Masters at Augusta National Golf Club on Tuesday, April 9, 2019, in Augusta, Ga.

It would figure that if any golf course could cure whatever is ailing him, it would be Augusta National.

Spieth is exuding patience, if not confidence.

"My expectations are high this week. I feel great about the state of my game right now," said Spieth, coming off a 73-72 weekend in the Texas Open that took him from a tie for second to a tie for 30th. "I feel like my recent results aren't a tell of where my game is actually at, and I feel I've made a lot of strides in the last couple days in the tee-to-green game. It's just a matter of trust in the stuff that I'm working on, and I don't feel like I have to play well."

He is climbing out of a hole, and either the way out is taking longer than he would have thought, or the hole was deeper than he ever imagined.

Most telling was what Spieth said at the start of the year, when he returned from two-month break that included his wedding.

"I almost took ignorance as bliss in a lot of parts of my game," he said. "I did things well, but I didn't know why. I just did them. Then they got off, and so I had to figure out why I did them and how to train it back."

Augusta awaits.

McIlroy is among the top five players in the world who have a chance to leave the Masters with a green jacket and the No. 1 ranking. For such a small field — 87 players, six of them amateurs—the tournament is wide open. It's been that way for years.

The difference is that Spieth usually could be counted on to be part of that mix. And he might be again.

"I feel I'm on the rise right now. That's just the way I feel," Spieth said. "I don't think I need results to prove anything otherwise. I know where my game is at and I know that good things are coming soon."

McIlroy juggling mind and game

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP)—Rory McIlroy feels as prepared as ever for the Masters.

He is spending more time with his nose in a book than with his hands on a putter. "The Greatest Salesman in the World" by Og Mandino is among the best books he has read in the last year. He has been working with Brad Faxon on his putting, but their best sessions take place over a cup of coffee.

His morning routine goes beyond stretching. There is juggling — yes, juggling — meditation and mind training.

"I was watching the Women's Amateur over the weekend and I saw a few women on the range juggling, so it's catching on," McIlroy said Tuesday. "How many balls can I juggle? Just three. I'm a rookie."

It's all geared toward becoming a complete person.

And whether it makes him a complete player by capturing the only major he has yet to win, well, that would be a bonus.

McIlroy is in the early stages of this process, and it's hard to argue with the results, even if results don't drive him like they once did. He has yet to finish out of the top 10 in his seven tournaments this year, which includes a victory at The Players Championship, the next best thing to a major.

But that green jacket is a powerful pull on the mind, and McIlroy has reason to believe he can fit comfortably into one.

He famously lost a four-shot lead with an 80 in the final round in 2011 but, even at age 21, showed enough resolve and enormous talent to win the U.S. Open in the very next major. He played in the final group on Saturday in 2016 with Jordan Spieth until falling back with a 77. He played in the final group Sunday last year with Patrick Reed, three shots behind, and fell out of the mix before reaching the back nine.

"I know I've played well enough and I've shot enough good scores around here over the years that if I can put my best effort forward, I'm going to have a good chance to do well here," McIlroy said. "But it's definitely different. My mind set is a little different in terms of ... I'm still practicing. I'm still getting better. I'm not getting ahead of myself, not thinking about the tee shot on Thursday or thinking about what is to come this week.

RENT ONE GET ONE FREE
MAKE YOUR OWN COMBO
LG UHD TV
42"-75" Screens
XBOX
PS4
Furniture of America
Whirlpool
*Pay 1st item, get 2nd item of equal or lesser value FREE for the first payment. This is a rent to own transaction. You don't own the product until all rental payments are completed. Example: $9.95 x 12 months=$517.40. See store for details.
NO CREDIT NEEDED
Middle Road | 234-RENT
Chalan Kanoa | 234-DIAL
DIAL
Rent-to-Own

Wade records triple-double in finale

NEW YORK (AP) —Dwyane Wade was hurting, sitting on the training table trying to get enough treatment to get him on the floor one last time.

A couple hours later, he looked like a guy capable of playing well beyond what was the final night of his career.

Wade had 25 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists in his last NBA game, which the Brooklyn Nets won by beating the Miami Heat 113-94 on Wednesday night to finish 42-40 and clinch the No. 6 seed in the Eastern Conference.

With close friends LeBron James, Chris Paul and Carmelo Anthony leading the cheers from their courtside seats, Wade had his fifth career triple-double in three quarters. He fittingly secured it with a pass to Udonis Haslem, his teammate of 15 years who plays sparingly now and made his only start of the season.

"I was like, I don't know why, but everybody feels like now you've got to go out and score 60 in your last game because Kobe did it," Wade said, wearing a sparkling gold jacket and gold sneakers. "So hopefully I took the bar all the way back down and say let's go get a triple-double, that's easier."

A night after scoring 30 points in his final game in Miami, Wade showed one more time that he's walking away with his skills intact.

He played 36 minutes, dribbling out the shot clock the final time he had the ball before checking out with 10 seconds remaining. Then it was time for a lengthy postgame celebration on the court with teammates and friends.

AP

Brooklyn Nets guard Caris LeVert (22) defends as Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade (3) shoots during the first half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, April 10, 2019, in New York.

Pistons 115, Knicks 89

In New York, Luke Kennard scored 27 points, Reggie Jackson had 21 and Andre Drummond added 20 points and 18 rebounds as the Detroit Pistons locked up the Eastern Conference's final playoff spot with a over the Knicks.

Jackson scored 14 points and Drummond had 10 points and seven rebounds in the first quarter as the Pistons never trailed and led by as many as 16 points.

Nuggets 99, Timberwolves 95

In Denver, Nikola Jokic had 29 points, 14 rebounds and had a key strip in the closing seconds as Denver scored the game's final 15 points and secured the No. 2 seed in the Western Conference playoffs.

James Murray added 17 for the Nuggets, who are in the postseason for the first time in six years and will face seventh-seeded San Antonio.

Trail Blazers 136, Kings 131

In Portland, rookie Anfernee Simons scored a career-high 37 points in his first start of the season and Portland secured the No. 3 seed in the Western Conference using just six players in a win over Sacramento.

The Blazers have won 14 of 17 games en route to their sixth straight trip to the playoffs.

Clippers 143, Jazz 137, OT

In Los Angeles, Montrezl Harrell scored 24 points to lead seven players in double figures and the Clippers beat Utah in overtime, snapping a three-game skid to close the regular season.

Ivica Zubac added 22 points and 11 rebounds and Patrick Beverley had 14 points in his return from injury.

Thunder 127, Bucks 116

In Milwaukee, Russell Westbrook got his 34th triple-double of the season and Oklahoma City beat Milwaukee to lock up the sixth seed in the Western Conference playoffs.

Oklahoma City played without injured Paul George, but Westbrook, Jerami Grant and Dennis Schroder led a hot-shooting effort from 3-point range. Westbrook had 15 points, 17 assists and 11 rebounds.

Magic 122, Hornets 114

In Charlotte, Kemba Walker scored 43 points in what may be his final game with the Hornets.

Terrence Ross scored a season-high 35 points, Aaron Gordon added 27 and the Magic clinched the seventh seed in the Eastern Conference playoffs and will face the Toronto Raptors in the first round.

Spurs 105, Mavericks 94

In San Antonio, LaMarcus Aldridge had 34 points and 16 rebounds and the Spurs beat Dallas in Dirk Nowitzki's final game.

Nowitzki finished with 20 points and 10 rebounds in the finale of his storied 21-season career—all with the Mavericks.

The Spurs head into the Western Conference playoffs as the No. 7 seed.

Grizzlies 132, Warriors 117

In Memphis, Jevon Carter scored a career-high 32 points, Justin Holiday added 22 and the Grizzlies beat Golden State in the teams' regular-season finale.

Kevin Durant led the Warriors with 21 points, while Klay Thompson finished with 19. Durant and Thompson, who sat out Tuesday's win at New Orleans, were the only Golden State starters to play. Both saw action only in the first half.

76ers 125, Bulls 109

In Philadelphia, Jonathon Simmons scored 20 points to lead Philadelphia over Chicago in the regular-season finale for both teams.

In preparation for the playoffs, the 76ers rested all five starters, and star center Joel Embiid's status for the opener is in question.

Pacers 135, Hawks 134

In Atlanta, Edmond Sumner sank three free throws with three-tenths of a second remaining, lifting playoff-bound Indiana past Atlanta.

Taurean Prince's 3-pointer with 1.1 seconds remaining gave Atlanta the lead, but DeAndre Bembry's foul on Sumner's last-second 3-point attempt changed the game.

FIRST-ROUND MATCHUPS

Eastern Conference

(1) Milwaukee Bucks vs. (8) Detroit Pistons

(2) Toronto Raptors vs. (7) Orlando Magic

(3) Philadelphia 76ers vs. (6) Brooklyn Nets

(4) Boston Celtics vs. (5) Indiana Pacers

Western Conference

(1) Golden State Warriors vs. (8) Los Angeles Clippers

(2) Denver Nuggets vs. (7) San Antonio Spurs

(3) Portland Trail Blazers vs. (6) Oklahoma City Thunder

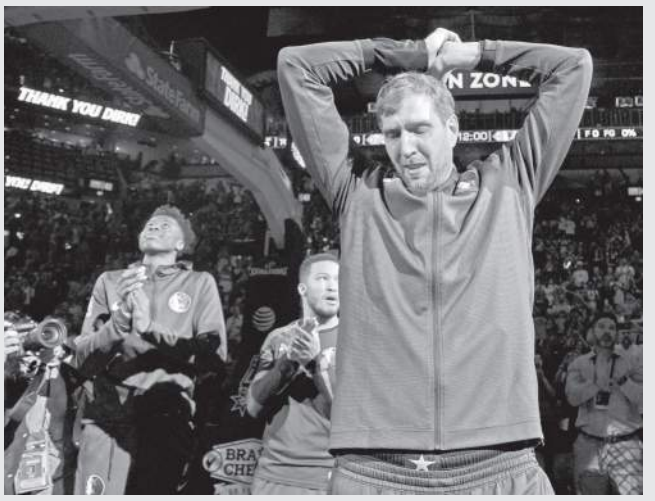
(4) Houston Rockets vs. (5) Utah Jazz

Nowitzki tears up after tribute from rival Spurs

SAN ANTONIO—Dirk Nowitzki confirmed Tuesday what much of the NBA had anticipated most of the season, announcing his retirement in an emotional, star-packed ceremony during the Dallas Mavericks' home finale win over the Phoenix Suns.

But there was still more basketball to be played after Tuesday. And there were more tributes and tears from Dirk.

The Mavericks finished their season on the road Wednesday night against the San Antonio Spurs. And Nowitzki's longtime Texas rivals moved him to tears with a video tribute that came before his final introduction in an NBA game. It's not the first time the Spurs honored a rival this season.



AP

Dallas Mavericks' Dirk Nowitzki cries as he thanks fans after watching a video tribute to him from the San Antonio Spurs before an NBA basketball game, Wednesday, April 10, 2019, in San Antonio.

Head coach Gregg Popovich presented Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade with a gift of autographed jerseys from Spurs icons Tim Duncan, Manu Ginobili and Tony Parker during his much-celebrated retirement tour.

Unlike Wade, Nowitzki kept his retirement plans under wraps until the Mavericks home finale. But with one last road game, the Spurs took the opportunity to send Nowitzki out with a tribute from a rival.

Nowitzki closed his career with a 20-point, 10-rebound performance in a 105-94 loss to the Spurs.

He also had one last opportunity to show off his trademark step-back jumper in the game's final seconds.

That bucket was a perfect note to close on as Nowitzki checked out one last time to a standing ovation from an appreciative San Antonio crowd.

USMNT draws tough Gold Cup group

The 2019 CONCACAF Gold Cup will bring the United States men's national team face to face with the author of its biggest nightmare.

Wednesday's draw revealed the USMNT has been grouped with Trinidad and Tobago, which beat the Americans 2-1 in October 2017 to deny them a World Cup berth for the first time since 1986.

The United States will also face Panama and Guyana in Group D. Panama, along with T&T and the USMNT, reached the fifth and final round of 2018 World Cup qualifying, which features six teams and is colloquially known as the "Hex." No other Gold Cup group has more than one team that made it that far.

Mexico headlines Group A, which also includes Canada, Martinique and Cuba. Group B features Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Haiti and Bermuda, while Group C has Honduras, Jamaica, El Salvador and Curaçao.

The biennial championship of North and Central America and the Caribbean has been contested 14 times, with Mexico winning seven titles, the United States winning six and Canada winning once. The USMNT is the defending champion, having raised the trophy in 2017.

Traditionally, Gold Cups played the year after the World Cup have been more competitive, with a berth in the FIFA Confederations Cup available to the winner. Each nation has therefore fielded its best team possible.

While the Confed Cup has effectively been abolished, this competition still figures to be the biggest early test for new U.S. coach Gregg Berhalter, who has won three of his first four matches in charge. What's more, CONCACAF actually picks the groups itself, and doesn't do a draw for the tournament.

It won't be easy for Berhalter and company. Certainly not at the start.

The USMNT will face Guyana, in Saint Paul, on June 18; Trinidad and Tobago, in Cleveland, on June 22; and Panama, in Kansas City, on June 26.

SOUTHERN

From Page 32

while Donna Kapileo, Kialeen Leemarvin, and Khristelle Itaas chipped in one each. Anisa Villagomez posted the lone goal for Paire.

CO-ED U12 DIVISION
Kanoa 4, MP United 1

Kanoa swept the second of the three-round competition in the division after beating MP United.

Taehun Han fired three goals to hand Kanoa its sixth win in as many games and widen the team's lead in the four-squad field. Han earned his goals in succession, as he made his first in the 38 th minute and the last two in the 44th and 50th, while Izeah Jolo drew first blood for Kanoa in the 14th minute. Ian Song scored the only goal for MP United when he found the back of the net late in the second half.

TanHoldings 5, Shirley's 4

Mark Costales delivered a hat trick, including the go-ahead to help TanHoldings slip past Shirley's.

Costales' dagger came in the 53rd minute or 10 minutes after Muhammad Arif Khan equalized for Shirley's. Costales' two other goals were registered in the 12th and 48th minute, while Kaithlyn Chavez logged the two other goals for TanHoldings.

Jayvin Bisek, Edward Arriola, and Tristan Kapwich scored the first three goals for Shirley's before Khan dropped the game-tying one.

GIRLS U19 DIVISION
Kanoa 12, MP United 3

Over at the TSL Sports Complex, Kanoa eased past MP United in the first futsal game last Friday.

The victory solidified Kanoa's hold to the top spot as the team got win No. 5, two more than MP United.

Joyce led Kanoa's triumph after making five goals, while three of her teammates scored multiple goals. MP United drew its goals from Britany Wally, McCallion, and Katrina Costales.

Southern United 3, TanHoldings 1

Southern United took victory No. 3 after downing TanHoldings.

Katherine Magat, Falalimpa, and Jerlyn Castillo teamed up in Southern United's triumph lighting up the board in the second, 12th, and 17th minute, respectively. Jenny Ann Capayas posted the only goal for TanHoldings.

NMIFA Spring Youth League Standings
(As of April 7, 2019)

CO-ED U12 DIVISION

Teams	G	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD	PTS
Kanoa	6	6	0	0	46	6	40	18
TanHoldings	6	3	0	3	22	24	-2	9
MP United	6	3	0	3	19	23	-4	9
Shirley's	6	0	0	6	8	42	-34	0

BOYS U15 DIVISION

Kanoa-1	6	6	0	0	50	3	47	18
MP United	6	5	0	1	25	5	20	15
TanHoldongs	6	4	0	2	32	13	19	12
Shirley's	6	2	0	4	13	26	-13	6
Matansa	6	1	0	5	12	27	-15	3
Kanoa-2	6	0	0	6	5	63	-58	0

GIRLS U16 DIVISION

Southern United	6	5	1	0	17	2	15	16
Kanoa	6	4	1	1	29	12	17	13
TanHoldings	6	3	3	0	17	8	9	12
MP United	6	1	2	3	10	13	-3	5
Matansa	6	1	1	4	5	18	-13	4
Paire	4	0	0	4	6	18	-12	0

BOYS U18 DIVISION

MP United	5	5	0	0	30	3	27	15
Matansa	4	3	0	1	10	8	2	9
TanHoldings	5	3	0	2	18	9	9	9
Kanoa	5	1	0	4	8	29	-21	3
U15NT	5	0	0	5	2	19	-17	0

GIRLS U19 DIVISION

Kanoa	5	5	0	0	49	10	39	15
MP United	5	3	0	2	47	23	24	9
Southern United	5	3	0	2	18	27	-9	9
TanHoldings	5	1	0	4	8	21	-13	3
Matansa	4	0	0	4	3	44	-41	0

Sablan wins SGA March Ace

Joe I. Sablan ruled the Saipan Golfers Association March Ace Tournament held at the Kingfisher Golf Links.

Sablan, a 23-handicapper, shot a 47 and 46 on the front and back nines, respectively, for a gross 93 and net 70. He won by just one stroke against Ed Manibusan and Joe Demapan, who had similar scores of 72, but the latter dropped to third after losing in the scorecard tiebreak.

The 6-handicapper Manibusan fired a 38 on the front and 39 on the back for a gross 77, while Demapan had a gross 84, built around his pair of 42s. Demapan also won the longest drive contest on No. 7, while John Diaz did the same on No. 11.

In the closest to the pin event, the winners were Jung Eun Teack (No. 6 and 15) , Alex Tudela (No. 8), and Sablan (No. 12)

Meanwhile, the SGA April Ace of the Month is scheduled this Sunday on the west course of the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort. Tee time is at 9:30am. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

TINIAN

From Page 32

Tinian student (girls division) to qualify in the championships after clocking in at 1:53.44 in the 400m run trial and beating Janeean King (2:09.03).

In the boys division, there are also multiple qualifiers in Calen Borja and Jerdon Cruz.

Borja is Tinian's entry in the U7's 60m run (10.36 seconds), 100m run (18.16), 200m run (41.19) and softball throw (25.4m). In the U9 age group, Cruz earned the slot in the 200m (41.47), 400m (1:53.44), 100m (18.5), and 60m (10.61) runs.

Other qualifiers in the boys elementary were Abir Ali in the U9 softball throw (25.4m) and Chates Epity in the U7 400m run (2:39.40).

Meanwhile, Tinian Junior and Senior High School's Tyler Santos are likely to lead the qualifiers in the boys U18 middle distance races after posting two best times in the March 30 trials at the Oleai Sports Complex.

In the 3,000m run, the CNMI National Team member clocked in at 11:14.43, besting eight other runners on his heat. In the 1,500m, Santos was the top finisher anew after posting 5:00.57 and prevailing against nine other runners. Then in the 800m, he was ranked third (2:35.75) in his group behind Marianas High School's Josh Joson (2:26.14) and Saipan International School's Kuu Nishimura (2:31.43).

The high school qualifiers (U13, U15, and U18 age groups) will resume this Saturday and the final one will be on April 27, while the championship round is set for May 10 and 11.

Today, the trials for the elementary division will continue, while the organizing Northern Marianas Athletics and PSS will still hold qualifiers in the next two weeks.

THOMPSON

From Page 32

ing in at 5:34.17 Jinju raced against Chilton anew in the 200m backstroke and this time defeated the Palau bet with her 2:47.91 against the host's 2:50:06 for the bronze medal.

In the men's 13 and over 400m freestyle, Jinnosuke clinched second place after posting 4:27.55, while Palau's Noel Keane (4:25:14) finished first and his compatriot Jericho Maido (4:40.88) came in far third. Jinnosuke's brother, Lennosuke, also secured a silver medal when he was ranked second in the 200m freestyle behind Noel. Lennosuke recorded 2:03:52, while Noel logged 2:01.60, and Jinnosuke posted 2:08.96 for the bronze medal.

In the relay, Sikkel was with Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan's Ashley Dangol, Isaiah Aleksenko, and Hans Xu and they won in the mixed U12 400m medley relay. Boyer and Gauran also joined forces with Tsunami Saipan's Juhn Tenorio and Asaka Litulumar for a silver-medal finish in the mixed 13 and over 400m medley relay.

Earlier on Day 1 of the event, Jinju gave SSC its first individual medal after a runner-up finish in the 800m freestyle. She clocked in at 10:59.39 in the finals, surpassing her preliminary mark (11:09.03). The older Thompson also notched a bronze in the 50m backstrokes (35:45 seconds)

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Siblings Lennosuke, right, and Jinnosuke Suzuki, left, join Palau's Noel Keane in the podium during the awards ceremony for the 200m freestyle event of the Inaugural Micronesian Swimming Championships held at the National Swimming Pool in Palau last week.

Besides Jinju's silver and bronze, SSC swimmers also bagged two golds (relay with Tsunami Saipan), three more bronzes, and another silver in the opening day. Jinnosuke and Gauran teamed up with Tenorio and Aika Watanabe and they ruled the over 13 200m medley relay. In the same event, Sikkel raced with Xu, Aleksenko, and Dangol and the quartet took the gold in the U12 age group.

In the 400m freestyle relay, Jinnosuke, Jinie, Boyer, and Tsunami Saipan's Asaka Litulumar got the bronze behind Pohnpei and Palau teams. Boyer also won the bronze in the 200m butterfly, while Jinnosuke matched the former's third place finish in the 100m breaststroke. Lennosuke missed the podium in the 100m breaststroke, but redeemed himself in the 100m freestyle after getting the silver medal in the event.

For the final day of the competition at the pool, SSC swimmers hauled five individual medals and one in relay.

Jinju contributed two with her runner-up finishes in the 1,500m freestyle (21:14.08) and 100m backstroke (1:16.15) and was part of the gold-medal winning team in the 200m freestyle relay, as he raced with Lennosuke, Aika Watanabe, and Tenorio in beating Pohnpei, Palau, and the Marshall Islands squads.

Lennosuke also had a pair of medals on Day 3 after placing third in the 200m breaststroke (2:43.15) and second in the 50m freestyle (25.53 seconds), while Sikkel won a silver in the 200m individual medley after posting 3:22:87—a big drop from her preliminary time of 3:43.30.

Meanwhile, the Inaugural Micronesian Swimming Championships wrapped up with an open water swim last Saturday with two SSC swimmers making it to the podium.

Jinju placed third in the women's over 13 5K race after registering 1:25:47, while Jinnosuke was the runner-up in the men's field after logging 1:12:30.

Astros complete first-ever sweep of Yankees

PAGE 28

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Wade records triple-double in finale

PAGE 30

Thompson hauls medals in Palau

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Swim Club's Jinju Thompson races in the 400m freestyle event during the Inaugural Micronesian Swimming Championships held at the National Swimming Pool in Palau last week.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Jinju Thompson contributed half to the total individual medals Saipan Swim Club won in the Inaugural Micronesian Swimming Championships held at the National Swimming Pool in Palau last week.

The 16-year-old earned one gold medal, five silvers, and two bronzes for SSC, which got five more silvers and four bronzes in the competition held from April 4 to 6. Thompson's lone gold medal came in the women's 13 and over 200m freestyle race during the second day of the event. She clocked in at 2:26.28 in the finals, eclipsing her preliminary mark (2:27.43) and beating Palau's Osisang Chilton (2:28.86), Pohnpei's Jourdyn (2:29.35) and Nicole (2:35:24) Adams, the Marshall Islands' Alyssa England (2:37.28), and her sister, Jinie (2:39:49).

Also on Day 2 of the tournament, Jinju got two silver medals (400m freestyle and 200m backstroke), while siblings Lennosuke and Jinnosuke Suzuki won one silver each, and Savita Sikkel, David Boyer, and Sophia Gauran notched medals in relays.

Jinju finished second to the Olympian Chilton in the 400m freestyle, as the latter submitted 5:04.59 against the former's 5:05.59. Jinie handed SSC a bronze medal in the same event after check-

See THOMPSON on Page 31

Southern United, Kanoa on top

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Southern United Football Club still holds the girls U16 lead, while Kanoa Football Club is ahead in two other divisions in the 2019 NMIFA Spring Youth League.

Southern United won over MP United, 3-1, last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville for victory No. 5. Marinel Joy Falalimpa nailed a pair of goals, while Mariana Castro scored the other one for Southern United, which kept its distance against Kanoa.

Falalimpa knocked in her twin goals in the first half, while Castro delivered early in the second half. MP United averted a shutout loss after Stellalou McCallion hit the board in the 65th minute.

In other results in the girls U16 division, Kanoa whipped Paire FC, 11-1, while TanHoldings won via forfeit against Matansa.

Paulynn Joyce and Sharmaine Francisco delivered three goals apiece for Kanoa, which notched its fourth victory and is at close second behind Southern United. Abigael Decena added two goals,

See SOUTHERN on Page 31

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A Southern United Football Club player, right, beats MP United's Stellalou McCallion to the ball during their girls U16 division game in the 2019 NMIFA Spring Youth League at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Tinian students make grade

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Eighth elementary school students from Tinian notched qualifying slots in the 2019 Public School System/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships.

In the girls division, Kaisa San Nicolas won all four spots at stake in her age group (U7). She is qualified to join the 60m run (11.64 seconds), 100m run (21.10 seconds), 200m (52.04 seconds), and softball throw (21 meters). In the U9 division, Ysabella Lenteja is also participating in four events when the tournament is held on Saipan on May 3 and 4, as she made the grade in softball throw (21.45m), 200m (40.56 seconds), 100m (17.97 seconds), and 60m (10.68 seconds) runs. Karenna Shrestha was the third

See TINIAN on Page 31

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tinian Junior and Senior High School's Tyler Santos, right, leads in the 1,500m qualifying race for the 2019 Public School System/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships late last month at the Oleai Sports Complex.